

# STARS AND STRIPES®

**Dave Barry's  
guide to season's  
goofiest gifts**

Scene magazine

Beer Belt

**GI guilty of  
lesser charge in  
nightclub killing**

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**After 20 straight  
wins, Heidelberg  
boys drop two**

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Volume 63, No. 239 © SS 2004 G

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2004

\$1.00

## Two faces of war test 1st AD's training

Proficiency required in both anti-insurgency and conventional warfare

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**Blues Traveler  
rocks USAFE's  
holidays**

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Blues Traveler front man John Popper and Angie Long of the Air Force Reserve band sing at Friday's Operation Season's Greetings concert in Ramstein, Germany.

BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes



## STARS &amp; STRIPES

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Coast Guard crash:** The Coast Guard in Alaska suspended its search for six people lost for three days in the frigid Bering Sea after the crash of a rescue helicopter that had plucked them from a broken freighter.

Searchers covered 227 miles of coastline and 550 square miles of ocean before suspending the search Friday evening, said Rear Adm. James Olson, commander of the Coast Guard in Alaska.

**Peterson trial:** Jurors in the Scott Peterson murder trial were sequestered in a hotel Saturday after the judge agreed they could take the weekend off from their sentencing deliberations. They resume their work Monday.

The six men and six women in Redwood City, Calif., have spent 8½ hours since Thursday deciding whether the former fertilizer salesman should live or die for killing his pregnant wife, Laci, and the 8-month-old fetus she was carrying.

**Frankel sentencing:** A federal judge in New Haven, Conn., sentenced former fugitive financier Martin Frankel to more than 16 years in prison on Friday for devising a plot to cheat insurance companies out of \$200 million to pay for his luxurious lifestyle.

In 1999, Frankel triggered an international manhunt when he disappeared from his mansion in Greenwich. He was arrested in Germany four months later. He pleaded guilty to 24 federal charges of fraud and racketeering, and co-operated with authorities in prosecuting other defendants in the case.

**Jackson molestation case:** Fingerprints belonging to both Michael Jackson and the boy accusing him of child molestation were found on pornographic magazines seized from Jackson's Neverland ranch last year, the Santa Barbara News-Press reported Saturday, citing sources it did not identify.

If the reported evidence is admitted during Jackson's trial, prosecutors would be expected to argue that the fingerprints were proof that Jackson showed the boy pornographic literature before molesting him. But the defense could question whether the entertainer knew the boy had been leafing through the magazines.

**D.C.-area snipers:** A judge in Seattle has signed off on a \$2.5 million settlement between relatives of Washington, D.C.-area sniper victims and a gun shop and weapon maker connected to the shootings.

In the settlement reached in September, Bull's Eye Shooter Supply of Tacoma agreed to pay \$2 million to two survivors and six families related to the victims of snipers John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo. Gun manufacturer Bushmaster Firearms of Windham, Maine, agreed to pay the remaining \$500,000.

Bushmaster made the weapon used in the 2002 shootings, which the pair reportedly stole from Bull's Eye.

**Puerto Rico governor race:** Puerto Rico has been wrangling for more than a month over the disputed governor's election with no victor in sight, reopening deep divisions over the island's status and sending the fight to U.S. court.

Arguments are scheduled to begin Monday in the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston on whether the island's Supreme



Frankel



**Philippines storm recovery:** Army troops and residents carry relief goods Friday as they walk through debris in the typhoon-ravaged town of Real, Quezon province, east of Manila. Volunteer rescuers have ended their search for survivors Saturday after finding four people from the rubble of a building that collapsed after a landslide following a powerful storm that killed 893 people. Officials say 480 still are missing.

Court or a U.S. district judge should have jurisdiction over thousands of disputed ballots that favor pro-commonwealth candidate Anibal Acevedo Vila of Puerto Rico's Popular Democratic Party.

Preliminary election results from Nov. 2 showed Acevedo Vila narrowly ahead of pro-statehood contender Pedro Rossello of the New Progressive Party — 48.38 percent to 48.18 percent.

**'Siegfried & Roy' tiger attack:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture has ticketed the company responsible for the exotic animals used in the Las Vegas "Siegfried & Roy" show, ending a lengthy investigation into the near-fatal tiger attack on illusionist Roy Horn.

S&R Productions received the citation Dec. 6, more than 14 months after the bloody attack that left Horn partially paralyzed, USDA spokesman Jim Rogers told The Associated Press on Friday.

Rogers declined to discuss why the company received the citation, but said it does not carry any penalties.

## World

**Myanmar prisoner release:** Myanmar's ruling junta announced Saturday in Yangon that more than 5,000 prisoners have had their sentences suspended and will be freed from various prisons around the country, in the third such release in less than a month.

A brief announcement on the evening news programs of state radio and television said a third batch of 5,070 prisoners whose detentions were ruled irrelevant or improper have had their sentences reduced and will be freed.

**Sudan peace talks:** Delegates from warring parties in Sudan's Darfur region gathered Friday for peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria, where mediators hope to reach a deal to end violence that has left tens of thousands dead and nearly 2 million homeless.

Previous peace negotiations have failed to stop the fighting, and African Union mediators said Friday that attacks continue in Sudan's western region, while serious problems remain unresolved.

"We have two outstanding issues: the political and the socio-economic issues. We expect at least to reach some understanding on them," said Assane Bana, a spokesman for the African Union.

Representatives from Darfur's two main rebel groups had already arrived in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, and Sudan's government delegation on its way.

## Military

**Mutual fund pressure:** Securities regulators are planning sanctions against a company that sold high-fee mutual funds to military officers, sources familiar with the situation said Friday. Some big fund companies said they may reconsider the "contractual plan" funds.

Earlier this year, House members voiced outrage at sales pressure that some companies have put on military personnel, many of whom are being sent to war zones, to buy what are said to be overpriced, unsuitable mutual funds and life insurance.

In October, the House passed legislation aimed at protecting military recruits and officers from salespeople promoting such insurance and fund plans. The Senate did not act on the legislation.

**Lyndie England case:** The case against

Pfc. Lyndie England, charged with abusing Iraqi detainees at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison, will be resolved at Fort Hood, Texas, not Fort Bragg, N.C., the Army said Friday.

The move is being made to bring together several cases stemming from the prisoner abuse scandal, including those of England, Spc. Charles Graner, and Sgt. Javal Davis, and Sgt. Sabrina Harman, the Army said in a statement.

**War on terrorism**

**British troops in Baghdad:** Two hundred members of Britain's Black Watch regiment returned to their English base Saturday after a contentious deployment to back up U.S. forces in Iraq.

The soldiers — the first batch of about 850 to return over the next few days — were reunited with their families at Warmistern barracks in southwest England after a six-month tour of duty in Iraq.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



England

# War hustles to train for 2 types

## Weapons used in anti-insurgency fight don't apply to conventional warfare

By TERRY BOYD  
Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — In a radical reorientation, many soldiers are training to fight two distinctly different wars as the U.S. Army adapts from the post-Cold War world to fighting the global war on terrorism.

Even soldiers in the Army's last armored division are expected to train to be ready to wage two completely different fights — a nebulous counterinsurgency such as Iraq, and a large force-on-force conflict on a defined battlefield.

While a majority of soldiers in the 1st Armored Division are infantrymen, the Army is becoming more high-tech, not less, and heavy divisions are bringing a larger number of complex, high-skill weapons systems to the battlefield.

The Army's plan to keep those soldiers proficient on the weapons is being tested to the limits.

During recent Multiple Launch Rocket System live-fire training at Baumholder's range near Idar-Oberstein, crews from the 1st AD's 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment were slow to start working together to fire the weapons, among the most lethal weapons in the U.S. arsenal.

Batteries were scheduled to begin three firing scenarios at 8 a.m., but didn't finish until late in the afternoon because of complications, including pacetime safety regulations, only a few miles from the main town of Baumholder.

Before the firings, mechanics wrestled with recalcitrant vehicles that had been shipped back from Iraq "with a lot of problems," said Staff Sgt. Julio Metzler, a Battery C section chief.

"Knockin' the rust off," is how Pfc. Aaron Irions, a driver for headquarters battery, put it, a phrase echoed by Metzler and other soldiers describing the crew qualifications — step 8 in an 18-step series of competency tests termed rocket tables.

### Two-pronged approach

But the question doesn't, what if the 1st AD must fight a conventional war soon after returning from Iraq?

With U.S. forces fighting asymmetric wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, can they be expected to fight a conventional war against North Korea or Iran?

Army officials are trying their best to make sure soldiers are proficient at both conventional and anti-insurgency warfare, said Jonathan Grossman, a senior researcher specializing in military technology and military training at the Santa Monica, Calif.-based RAND Corp., a nonprofit think tank that often helps shape public policy.

But with two "main" missions, how much time can soldiers dedicate to retaining critical, highly perishable skills with high-tech weapons systems?

"That's an open-ended question," Grossman said.



TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Lennie K. Mattis, a launcher chief, waits early in the morning in his M270 launcher for his crew's chance to fire rockets during training last month in Baumholder, Germany. The 1st Armored Division is training for the possibility that a war on a conventional battlefield could follow the anti-insurgency war in Iraq.

## Rocket launcher delivers deadly blow

The Multiple Launch Rocket System, built by Lockheed Martin, is one of the deadliest weapons on the conventional battlefield, though it has no real use in the anti-insurgency battle in Iraq.

MLRS crews can fire a variety of rockets, some of which give U.S. forces the ability to destroy the enemy's command-and-control at ranges up to 25 miles.

That kind of firepower has the effect of turning an enemy armor offensive "into a bunch of tanks wandering around without a mission," said Maj. John Frisbie, operations officer for the 1st Armored Division's 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, based at Strassburg Casern near Baumholder, Germany.

With MLRS crews wiping out enemy radar, Apache attack helicopters are free to penetrate deeper into enemy defense and fire Hellfire missiles, Frisbie added.

Each tracked M270 launcher and its crew of driver, gunner and section chief can fire up to 12 rockets in less than 60 seconds, according to Lockheed Martin documents.

Each MLRS launcher can deliver almost 8,000 munitions in less than 60 seconds at ranges exceeding 20 miles. Some canister-type rockets have the ability to disperse enough bomblets in 60 seconds to annihilate enemy troops over an entire 1,000-square-meter map grid.

A battalion's five batteries — a total of 18 launchers — fire for the division commander via battalion and battery tactical operations centers. But each M270 crew can act independently, depending on the circumstances.

"It's not your dad's artillery anymore — units lined up and firing together," Frisbie said.

— Terry Boyd

Iraq, "then go to Graf and put the first missile down range perfectly the first time," he said, referring to the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Grafenwohr.

### The new reality

That said, no soldier or officer complained at Baumholder, headquarters for the 1st AD's 2nd Brigade and Division Artillery. Firing an MLRS was "awesome," Metzler said.

Though crews were nervous before the first test, they "high-fived each other in the launcher" upon completing the firings, said Staff Sgt. James Cookman, a Battery C section chief. Yes, having to train for two fights instead of one is not easy, but it's a new reality, he said.

"I have confidence we can do it. It's what we're asked to do and I have every confidence we're going to do it and do it well," Metzler said.

The battalion hadn't fired the MLRS since last March at Butler Range east of Baghdad, said Maj. John Frisbie, operations officer. Frisbie and other officers echoed soldiers, saying that returning to artillery training after fighting in Iraq is exhilarating, but daunting.

Coordinating the highly mobile launchers with battalion command-and-control after 15 months in Iraq, then nearly four months of reintegration, proved difficult.

Even firing practice rockets, which have a limited range, "is so precise that it goes from being an 11 Bravo to firing rockets from point A to point B at a target you can't see is tough," Frisbie said.

The battalion now will break off their normal rocket tables to go to Grafenwohr in March for infantry training to prepare for an eventual return deployment to Iraq.

In theory, both missions — anti-

lery and infantry — sound simple, but in reality neither is, Grossman said. Learning light-infantry tactics such as maneuvering techniques, he said, "is really quite difficult."

Firing the MLRS seems straightforward, but the ATACMS — Army tactical missile system with multiple warheads — "demands very detailed procedures to put in target information. They employ shoot-and-scoot tactics. At O-dark-30 on the battlefield, all hell can break loose unless teams are proficient," Grossman said.

He likened a dual mission to a heart surgeon who's also a brain surgeon. "It's not inconceivable you can do both, but it's difficult."

### Abile to adapt

Studies show that soldiers who score in the top 25 percent on standardized Army entrance tests tend to learn at the fastest rate, Grossman said.

For smarter soldiers, training for two missions may not be a big problem, he said.

For the rest, "are we asking too much?" he asked.

The ongoing two-mission reorientation is not unprecedented, say Pentagon officials and retired officers, who said that the Army always has trained for the most likely threat.

Reimer says he sees some similarities to Vietnam, where he was sent as an artillery officer, but ended up assisting infantry units.

"War changes things, and we're at war," Ralph Peters, a retired Army lieutenant colonel and author of "Beyond Baghdad: Postmodern War and Peace," said in an e-mail interview.

All Army units change their mission statement to reflect the most probable tasks they will perform, wrote Lt. Col. Christopher Rodney in an e-mail response to a Stars and Stripes query.

Peacekeeping and peacemaking tasks are most probable for 1-94, "and so it is reflected in their training focus," wrote Rodney, who works in the media relations division for the Department of the Army in Washington, D.C.

Peters, who is often critical of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, says he's not worried — soldiers have sufficient time to recover skills after Iraq.

"Certainly, Iraq is taking a toll, but the Army doesn't exist to fail for the perfect conflict," he wrote.

It's easy to draw catastrophic conclusions from tactical details, Peters said. "Reimer said, 'I believe Iraq is having a positive effect on the Army, with the combat-experienced making it now the most experienced army in the world, as well as the best-trained and equipped.'"

"I think this is a very positive story that soldiers can adapt to the mission," Reimer said. "I think that's the story — the ability of the soldiers and the versatility of the soldiers. We couldn't have done that in Vietnam. We didn't have the skills of the soldiers."

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# 1st AD GI guilty of aggravated assault in nightclub killing

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY  
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — A military panel found Army Pvt. Nestor K. Velazquez guilty of aggravated assault in the stabbing death last April of a man at a popular Mainz-Kastel nightclub.

Deliberating for nearly nine hours over two days at the courtroom on Wiesbaden Army Airfield, the six-member jury opted for conviction on a charge far less serious than the unpremeditated murder, which the prosecution had sought.

If convicted of that charge, Velazquez could have received a life sentence. Instead, the 19-year-old Brooklyn native will receive a sentence of no more than three years in prison, and possibly much less, given that he has served 237 days in pre-trial confinement.

At press time Saturday the jury was still in the sentencing phase of the case.

"Panels do what they think is right, and what they think is right depends on a lot of different things," said Maj. Meg Foreman, one of two prosecutors in the case. "The verdict is only half the picture."

The decision was greeted with stone silence by the family and friends of Santo Scardino, the 18-year-old son of Italian immigrants. Scardino was stabbed five times on April 18 during a chaotic fight at the Euro Palace that pit Velazquez and another soldier against Scardino and at least four of his friends.

"Is that what my son's life was worth?" Maria-Rita Scardino, the victim's mother, asked through a translator.

When a recess was called after the verdict, Velazquez turned around and hugged his tearful mother, whispering consoling words to her.

Security was unusually high in the courtroom for the last two days as the trial neared its conclusion amid fears spectators might disrupt proceedings.

Defense attorneys argued during the six-day trial that Velazquez and Pfc. Anquan Huggins, both 1st Armored Division soldiers, were making their way to the restroom when Scardino approached Huggins to renew a dispute Velazquez had mediated roughly 30 minutes earlier.

Huggins, who was granted immunity in exchange for his testimony, admitted he threw the first punch. Velazquez's attorneys maintained Velazquez was caught up in a row of his desire or making.

Only when the two soldiers were outnumbered and objects were being thrown did Velazquez pull out his knife in self-defense, the attorneys said.

The defense said it is not entirely clear what happened, in part because of a shoddy investigation by German police, who originally had jurisdiction in the case. That included the loss of a second knife recovered from the bar, and the release of a suspect who was seen dropping the presumed murder weapon, said Capt. Will Helixon, a defense attorney.

"It was a carefully considered opinion by the panel, and they obviously didn't believe, by a reasonable doubt, that our client killed Mr. Scardino," Helixon said.

Prosecutors, however, felt strongly that Velazquez was responsible for Scardino's death. Their case relied heavily on blood and DNA evidence, and on Velazquez's admission to friends and German police that he thought he stabbed a couple of people during the fight.

Outside the court, shortly after the verdict was read, Scardino's mother could be seen and heard weeping inconsolably, and repeatedly invoking her son's name.

"Santo was so popular," Marino Conchetta, a close family friend, said back in the courtroom. "Everybody loved him. He was a good boy. He did not deserve such a destiny."

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BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

Blues Traveler lead vocalist and harmonica player John Popper sings at Friday night's Operation Season's Greetings concert at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

## Something to sing about Blues Travelers, Patriots cheerleaders stop by Ramstein to deliver holiday concert to airmen

BY BEN MURRAY  
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — There are few situations that drive an airman to volunteer to be dressed as a woman and made to dance in public.

But members of the New England Patriots cheerleading squad at Ramstein Air Base on Friday night had little trouble recruiting volunteers to join them on stage, where the airmen donned wigs and makeup and shook their pompons in the spotlight.

The gag was part of Operation Season's Greetings, a music and entertainment show currently touring air bases around Europe with an Air Force Reserve and U.S. Air Forces in Europe band and the five-man rock group Blues Traveler.

Sponsored by USAFE and the Air Force Reserve, the free concerts have been supplemented by

daytime appearances by Blues Traveler and the cheerleaders, who have signed autographs and mingled with troops at bases in the Azores and Turkey before moving on to Germany.

Operation Season's Greetings is Blues Traveler's third tour for servicemembers in recent years, and band front man John Popper said the group keeps returning because it's the best way the members have to personally thank troops.

"I'm just so amazed by what kids half my age can do," Popper said. "We don't feel like we hold a candle to the airmen."

Band members agreed that, while they enjoy being able to play the concerts, their real gratification comes from being able to meet with military members and their families.

Though the constant string of daily appearances make for a "physically exhausting" two-week schedule, Popper said,

the interaction allows him to do more of what he said is the highlight of the tour: "Getting to look some kid in the eye and thank them."

Friday's show opened with a performance by a combined Air Force Reserve and USAFE Band, which warmed up the crowd with a mix of rock, country and Christmas songs.

Then cheerleaders then took over, performing several dance routines with assistance from the crowd, followed by Blues Traveler, who closed the show with an hour-long performance.

After Friday's show in Ramstein and one in Spangdahlem on Saturday, Operation Season's Greetings was to travel to Menwith Hill Station and RAF Mildenhall in England for shows Monday and Tuesday before wrapping up the tour at Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland, on Thursday.

E-mail Ben Murray at: [murrayb@mail.stripes.osd.mil](mailto:murrayb@mail.stripes.osd.mil)

## Pentagon extends federal fund-raiser deadline

BY SANDRA JONTZ  
Stars and Stripes

Pentagon officials have granted requests from combat commanders to extend by two weeks the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas deadline in light of the current operational tempo and extended troop deployments, a CFC official said.

The Defense Department extended the deadline from Dec. 31 until Dec. 15, if needed, said Greg Sassman, director of CFC Overseas Europe.

"DOD reacted to overseas requests from Central Command and Pacific Command, saying they needed more time, and based

on those two requests, gave the option to all overseas commands to extend if needed."

European Command, however, declined to take the Pentagon up on its extension offer and kept the deadline at Dec. 3, Sassman said.

"That doesn't mean we're not accepting donations" from units who collected funds up until the deadline and are "just late in turning their stuff in for whatever reason," he said.

"It just means there is to be no future active solicitations and events for CFC," Sassman said.

As of Friday, EUCOM had raised more

than \$6.5 million dollars, exceeding last year's total of nearly \$6.4 million, he said.

"We think I had a lot to do with the leadership, especially Army leadership, which really got behind and the program this year and supported it," he added.

Troops operating in the Central, Southern and Pacific commands' areas of responsibility have that extra time to both turn in their pledge cards and to actively solicit and host events in order to get donations for the federally-sponsored fund-raising campaign for charitable organizations, Sassman said.

CENTCOM, which includes the current conflict areas of Iraq and Afghanistan, so

far has collected \$2.7 million, also exceeding last year's total of \$2.6 million, he said. SOUTHCOM's \$62,591 total makes it the sole combatant command to lag behind last year's sum of little more than \$85,000, Sassman said.

Because of time zone differences, the PACOM total was not available by deadline.

CFC is open to all U.S. government personnel, military or civilian, and DOD contractors and foreign nationals employed by the U.S. government.

Additional information is available on the Internet at: [www.cfcoverseas.org](http://www.cfcoverseas.org)

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: [jontzs@mail.stripes.osd.mil](mailto:jontzs@mail.stripes.osd.mil)



# 5 honored for work in Brit-American relations

Stars and Stripes

The British-American Community Relations Committee at RAF Mildenhall, England, recently recognized 18 people and presented five major awards to Britons and Americans during its annual reception.

The five major awards are named after the late Jack Haylock, a Member of the British Empire honored for his service to British-American relations. He was chairman of the Mildenhall committee for 13 years, according to a the Mildenhall public affairs office.

The Haylock awards, which recognize outstanding volunteer service, were presented to:

■ **Senior Master Sgt. Mike Dallas**, the American individual award winner. In September 2003, Dallas became youth football manager for the Siffeld United soccer club in Norfolk, a team of 9-to-10-year-old boys, and built it into league champions, unbeaten in all its competitive matches.

■ **Tracey Cooper**, the British individual award winner. She is the English liaison in the 100th Air Refueling Wing Legal office, and deals daily with all manner of issues concerning the base and the British authorities.

■ **Mackenzie Madden**, the youth award winner. Mackenzie, a 15-year-old at Laken-

heath High School, volunteers each week at a local shop run by Oxfam, a British relief agency that fights worldwide poverty, and at area nursing homes and for community service groups.

■ **The 93rd Reconnaissance Squadron**, a group award winner. The squadron supports the local meals-on-wheels service, delivering more than 1,500 meals to the elderly during the past year. It also helped clear overgrown courtyards and green areas, and raised nearly \$10,000 for the BBC's Children in Need project.

■ **RAF Mildenhall's Honor Guard** team, second award winner. Its main mission is to provide final military honors for deceased Air Force members. Its 54 members provide pallbearers, a firing party and color-bearers to honor the deceased — mostly elderly retired veterans.

Others recognized at the Dec. 3 ceremony were: the 100th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; the 727th Air Mobility Squadron; Philip Dodd, director of Forest Publishing, Ipswich; the 100th Operations Support Squadron; Nick Ladell; Staff Sgt. April Lam; Tech. Sgt. Douglas and Susan McGraw; Staff Sgt. Jerry Millard; 100th Mission Support Squadron; Pete Perry; 100th Security Forces Squadron; Senior Airman Ivan Ruiz; and Senior Airman Jared Pietras.



Cooper



Dallas

# DOD survey checking on satisfaction with ballots

BY LEO SHANE III  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The presidential election may be over, but the Department of Defense still is trying to get out the vote.

This month, the department's Federal Voting Assistance Program mailed out post-election surveys to military personnel serving overseas to see if they were able to vote in the November election and what could help them better participate in future elections.

More than 118 million Americans voted in November, about 12 percent more voters than in the 2000 election. Defense Department spokesman Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke said officials don't yet know if military voters followed that trend.

"However, the large number of individuals assisted via phone and e-mail indicates a high level of interest in the election," she said.

Before the November election, more than 230,000 absentee ballots were sent to troops serving outside the United States, according to the Military Postal Service Agency. About 180,000 were returned.

A Pentagon study following the 2000 election found that about 29 percent of military personnel who wanted to vote did not get the chance, either because absentee ballots were not available or they received the document too late.

In response, Krenke said, Defense Department officials worked closely with the U.S. Postal Service to speed up delivery and return of those ballots and increased access to federal write-in absentee ballots, used for troops who did not receive the proper paperwork from their local precincts.

The troops receiving surveys were selected randomly, and participation is voluntary. Troops who receive the mailed surveys either can return the paper form or log their responses on the Internet. Voting program officials expect about 30,000 to take part in the survey.

Krenke said officials will use those responses to decide what changes helped troops the most and what other services are needed.

Under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, each state is required to report the number of absentee ballots sent out to troops and how many were received back, so military officials can suggest improvements to the systems.

Those figures are due to the federal Election Administration Commission by Feb. 7. Data from the Defense Department's election survey should be available in spring.

An analysis of the successes and shortcomings of those military absentee ballot programs is due to Congress by the end of 2005.

E-mail Leo Shane at: [shane@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:shane@stripes.osd.mil)

## clip & save

### OCEAN'S TWELVE

Show dates are approximate.  
Check your local theater or [aafes.com](http://aafes.com)  
for exact show dates and times.

Adana	4-10 Feb
Arlino	28 Jan-3 Feb
Bahenhausen	28 Jan-3 Feb
Badal	24-30 Dec
Bamberg	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Baumholder	14-20 Jan
Bitburg	28 Jan-3 Feb
Camp Doha	14-20 Jan
Darmstadt	21-27 Jan
Derheim	14-20 Jan
Friedberg	4-10 Feb
Giebelstadt	21-27 Jan
Grafenwoehr	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Hannu	24-30 Dec
Heidelberg	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Hohenfels	7-13 Jan
Ilstheim	21-27 Jan
Katterbach	14-20 Jan
Kitzingen	14-20 Jan
Kosovo	4-10 Feb
Lakehurst	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Manheim	24-30 Dec
Mildenhall	24-30 Dec
Ramstein Hercules	7-13 Jan
Ramstein Nightingale	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Rhein Main	14-20 Jan
Schweinfurt	7-13 Jan
Spangdahlem	21-27 Jan
Taiz	18-24 Feb
Vallings	7-13 Jan
Vicenza	4-10 Feb
Vilseck	24-30 Dec
Vogelweh	24-30 Dec
Wiesbaden	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Wuerzburg	24-30 Dec

## Coming to your FIRSTRUN Theater!

CAST: CLOONEY/PITT/DAMON/ZETA-JONES/ROBERTS/GARY/CHADLAIN/MAC/ROBERTS



TWELVE IS THE NEW ELEVEN.

Danny Ocean and his crew, having successfully stolen \$150 million Las Vegas casinos in the first film, jet to Europe with three new heists planned, including swiping Rembrandt's Nightwatch from a gallery in Amsterdam. Meanwhile, casino owner Terry Benedict, whom Ocean and crew ripped off in Las Vegas, is hot on their tail, looking for revenge.

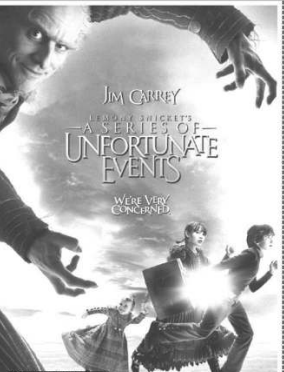
PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED  
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

## clip & save

### A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

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Camp Doha	14-20 Jan
Darmstadt	21-27 Jan
Derheim	7-13 Jan
Friedberg	4-10 Feb
Giebelstadt	21-27 Jan
Grafenwoehr	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Hannu	24-30 Dec
Heidelberg	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Hohenfels	7-13 Jan
Ilstheim	21-27 Jan
Katterbach	14-20 Jan
Kitzingen	14-20 Jan
Kosovo	4-10 Feb
Lakehurst	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Manheim	24-30 Dec
Mildenhall	24-30 Dec
Ramstein Hercules	7-13 Jan
Ramstein Nightingale	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Rhein Main	14-20 Jan
Schweinfurt	7-13 Jan
Spangdahlem	21-27 Jan
Taiz	18-24 Feb
Vallings	7-13 Jan
Vicenza	4-10 Feb
Vilseck	24-30 Dec
Vogelweh	24-30 Dec
Wiesbaden	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Wuerzburg	24-30 Dec



Violet, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire are three intelligent young children who survive terrible times that their parents have died in a fire and have left them an enormous fortune not to be used until the eldest child is of age. They are taken in by a series of odd relatives and other people, including Lemony Snicket, who narrates the film, and the cunning and dastardly Court Owl who is plotting to kill them and scratch their inheritance from them.

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED  
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Showtimes are subject to change. Please check your local theater or [aafes.com](http://aafes.com) to verify show dates.



# Captains go extra mile for troop ministry

Landstuhl program helps them better counsel servicemembers with recent wounds, trauma

By BEN MURRAY

Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Faced with the difficult task of ministering to wounded troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, a group of 10 Army, Air Force and Reserve chaplains have taken an extra step to provide better care for America's fighting men and women.

On Friday, the chaplains graduated from a two-week course in combat and emergency medical ministry, offered for the first time in Europe at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Designed to teach chaplains how to better counsel troops with recent wounds and trauma from their injuries, the classes expose participants to some of the harsh realities of military ministry.

"The whole idea is to battle-proof the unit ministry teams," said Chaplain (Maj.) David Bowerman, deputy staff chaplain at the hospital and the coordinator for the classes.

The Army has offered the courses for years, but only at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, according to instructor Chaplain (Lt. Col.) George Bearden, a training manager for the Department of Pastoral Ministry at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School there.

But with U.S. casualties returning from Iraq and Afghanistan crossing paths with chaplains in Germany, it made more sense to take the course to the hospital than to send people to Texas, Bowerman said.



BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

Chaplain (Capt.) Artie Maxwell of the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment based in Baumholder, Germany, talks with Staff Sgt. Jarrod Charles from the 2nd Infantry Division at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center on Wednesday.

To facilitate the classes, two teachers were flown over from Fort Sam Houston and two former instructors took classes. The men of Easy Company were tapped to lead a condensed version of the ministry classes, Bowerman said.

Emergency medical ministry is intended to introduce new chaplains to the specifics

of counseling troops returning from battle, Bearden said, while the "combat" course is a more advanced class.

Mixed together for the Landstuhl sessions, the classes use coursework, lectures and roundtable discussions to teach chaplains how to improve their spiritual support.

"They brought in some pretty shocking slides," Bowerman said. "You know, blood and guts."

There is also a practical side to the classes, Bearden said. Beginning students performed daily rounds at Landstuhl as part of the curriculum, visiting soldiers and acclimating themselves to the hospital environment. All participants were also required to rotate on-call shifts to greet patients arriving at the facility from downstate.

As the military's medical hub in Europe, Landstuhl has had no shortage of troops for chaplains to talk to: close to 21,000 have been treated at the hospital since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Spc. Eddie Mejia, a chaplain's assistant with the 173rd Airborne Brigade out of Vicenza, Italy, is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in coming weeks.

He said the program has been a good first step in being prepared to minister to battle casualties, if he does encounter them. He hopes it will reduce the shock of the experience.

Bearden added that, though that kind of preparation is central to combat and emergency medical ministry classes, the overall goal is to improve chaplains' counseling abilities overall.

"The purpose for us being here is because we want to do the best we can for our soldiers and our Marines," he said.

A second offering of the condensed classes is being planned for April, he said, but dates are not confirmed.

E-mail Ben Murray at: [murray@mail.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:murray@mail.estripes.osd.mil)

## Fatal accident

A U.S. sailor was killed Friday when the motorcycle he was driving collided with another vehicle near U.S. naval bases in Naples, Italy.

The sailor, who was not identified pending notification of next of kin, was traveling on SS7 around 3 p.m. when the accident occurred, according to Lt. Cmdr. Lisa Braun of the Navy Region Europe public affairs office.

The sailor was pronounced dead by Italian medical personnel who were called by Italian police.

Braun said the 32-year-old sailor was assigned to the Navy hospital at Grigeciano as a corpsman. She said he was wearing a helmet at the time of the accident.

## 'Brothers' visit Hanau

Six World War II veterans who inspired the "Band of Brothers" book and HBO miniseries will visit the 127th Aviation Support Battalion in Hanau, Germany, this week.

The vets of "Easy Company" of the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, will share war stories from

the Battle of the Bulge at Bastogne and other experiences.

They'll visit troops of the 127th at the Fliegerhorst Casern gymnasium in Hanau at 2 p.m. Tuesday. On Wednesday, they'll meet soldiers, civilians and their families at the Wolfgang Casern bookstore at 2 p.m.

The men of Easy Company were involved in three years of operations in Europe, parachuting in on D-Day and culminating with their mission to capture Hitler's Eagle's Nest.

## Globetrotters cancel

The Harlem Globetrotters have canceled their performance scheduled for Sunday in Mannheim, Germany, because of transportation problems.

The basketball entertainers are currently on a tour of nine U.S. military bases in 10 days. They were in Spain and Italy during the past week, and are scheduled to perform at bases in Turkey later this week.

Announcement of the Mannheim cancellation was made by Jim Sohre, U.S. Army Entertainment director with Installation Management Agency-Europe. No other details were available from Sohre.

From staff reports

# Senior defense official who was under investigation is removed from office

By T. CHRISTIAN MILLER

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — A senior defense official placed under investigation by the FBI for allegedly trying to steer Iraqi reconstruction contracts toward friends has been removed from office, Pentagon officials confirmed Friday.

John A. "Jack" Shaw, the Pentagon's deputy undersecretary for international technology security, was ordered to leave after refusing to sign a letter of resignation, the officials said. His last day was Friday.

"He was asked to discontinue his service," a senior Pentagon official said.

Shaw, whose activities were detailed in the Los Angeles Times earlier this year, was one of a handful of high-ranking U.S. officials who drew the scrutiny of investigators looking into how billions in taxpayer dollars were being spent in Iraq to rebuild that country.

Shaw allegedly tried to steer two contracts, one involving telecommunications and a second involving dredging at an Iraqi port, to companies linked to longtime friends or the clients of longtime friends.

After the allegations against him surfaced last spring, Shaw responded with a report of his own, charging that one of the U.S. officials accusing him had taken bribes in a conspiracy to place Iraq's cellular phone network under the control of a former Saddam Hussein ally.

Shaw did not respond to requests for comment on his ouster.

However, in e-mails and letters exchanged with Pentagon officials over his departure, Shaw portrayed himself as a whistle-blower who was being unfairly asked to resign for having highlighted problems with the cellular phone licensing process.

In a letter to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Shaw ex-

pressed anger at the accusations made in his previous report, charging that Defense Undersecretary Douglas Feith, his former law partner Marc Zell and Ahmad Chalabi, president of the Iraqi National Congress, also were involved in the conspiracy.

He also charged that Lawrence Di Rita, the Pentagon's top spokesman, was organizing a "smear campaign" against him, according to an e-mail obtained by The Times. If forced to step down, he threatened Di Rita that he would unleash "Iran-Contrita II," a reference to the scandal that rolled the Reagan administration.

"I cannot submit my resignation to you until it is clear that the well-orchestrated campaign to obstruct justice and suppress the findings of my office has been properly addressed and stopped," Shaw wrote in a letter to Rumsfeld.

Di Rita dismissed Shaw's charges as against Feith as "obviously ridiculous."

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# Anaconda armor shop improvises upgrades

## Facing perilous roads, battalion's creative welders keep drivers safe

BY RON JENSEN  
Stars and Stripes

**LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq** — Sgt. David Kamm said soldiers had a motto in the days when they drove the dangerous roads of Iraq protected by nothing more than the thin aluminum of their truck cabs: "Mission first, lives second."

Everybody talked about it in the 7th Transportation Battalion, said Kamm, an Army National Guard member from Michigan, who drives a truck as a civilian.

There was no protection from the increasing bullets and roadside bombs. They had no more protection than a trucker rolling from Lansing, Mich., to Des Moines, Iowa.

"Vulnerable? Definitely," said Pvt. Andrew Harbison, another driver from Michigan.

Last week, National Guard soldiers in Kuwait questioned Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld about the lack of armored vehicles as their units prepare to head north into Iraq. On Thursday, Rumsfeld said he expected the Army to do its best to provide adequate armor for all vehicles used in Iraq.

But 11 months and 11 million miles later, the 7th Transportation Battalion out of Fort Bragg, N.C., couldn't wait for the Army upgrade. Its 1,500 soldiers in Iraq had 500 cabs of rolling cinder block Humvees and trucks — with skin nearly as soft as a baby's.

Maj. Mark Paget, the battalion executive officer, said there was no alternative when the battalion's vehicles had to leave Kuwait and drive north last January.

"We came up in soft skin vehicles. And we took hits," he said. "We quickly realized we needed to do something fast."

The battalion began a full-scale upgrade of every vehicle that would leave Anaconda, the supply heart of the mission.

Harbison said, "When we first got here from Kuwait, we were putting [metal] plates on the inside of the doors."

Sheets of Plexiglas were fastened to the outside of the doors, which was enough to stop some shrapnel, he said, but did not provide the type of protection drivers wanted.

Kevlar blast blankets were hung in the backs of truck cabs. More than once, the blankets caught shrapnel headed for the drivers. Mylar covered the windows to prevent the glass from shattering when hit by a bullet or a blast.

"We did this very quickly, in the first 30 days," Paget said.

As the battle against the insurgency in Iraq has progressed, convoys have proved to be a favorite target. More than half of the battle deaths in Iraq have been from the roadside bombs that explode as vehicles pass. Nine deaths are from the 7th Transportation Battalion.

Capt. Michael DeLaughter, battalion maintenance officer, showed off some plates of the metal known commercially as Armox.

"We had [Explosive Ordnance Disposal] go out and shoot at this panel," he said.

It took seven bullets from a Squad Automatic Weapon to punch through. And an AK-47 fired the plate barely left a mark.

That convinced the battalion, which began cutting plates and bolting them to doors as fast as possible. The battalion has purchased \$800,000 of the armor plate, which is tough but easy to cut.

To speed the process, a template was made so the armored plates could be cut more quickly.

Kamm said that as the armored plates were being cut in the maintenance shop, the drivers were grabbing them.



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

**Capt. Michael DeLaughter, battalion maintenance officer for the 7th Transportation Battalion at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq, shows a homemade upgrade done to the door of a truck. Faced with driving unarmored vehicles across the dangerous Iraqi roads, members of the battalion began improvising their own armor. "We took the initiative on this," said Maj. Mark Paget, the battalion executive officer. "Nobody ever told us no."**

"We went out at night and put them on ourselves," he said.

The 57th Transportation Battalion in Tallil visited Anaconda, saw the results and is doing the same thing, the major said. They are sharing their methods with the transportation school at Fort Eustis, Va.

DeLaughter calls this a Level 3 upgrade — a do-it-yourself effort. About 250 of the battalion's trucks are armored in this fashion.

About 100 more vehicles have been given Level 2 protection, DeLaughter said, which is the factory-produced upgrade kits for vehicles. Another 80 Humvees used for convoy protection are Level 1, which is the factory-produced vehicle armor from head to toe on the assembly line.

"Nothing rolls past the wire without some sort of armor," DeLaughter said.

The drivers said they feel safer with the added protection.

"There's still tension," Kamm

said. "But it's a more relaxed feeling than before."

Staff Sgt. Doug Stenberg is a driver in the battalion, but a welder in civilian life. He helped fashion many of the homemade upgrades. With 11,000 miles of Iraqi road under his belt, he said the extra duty was no trouble.

"When it comes to getting shot at and [roadside] bombs, I've been there, done that, seen it," he said.

He was more than happy to lend his welding skills to the battalion.

"It feels real good [to help], especially when they come in here and explain what happened and walk away with all 10 fingers and 10 toes," he said.

Driving in the up-armored vehicles, he said, is more reassuring than before the upgrade.

"You never knew what, when or where," he said. "You were always on guard, a lot more on edge."

The vehicles with Level 2 upgrades and the Level 1 vehicles will remain when the battalion begins pulling out soon. The Level 3 vehicles will be driven to Kuwait, where, before they are shipped home, their armor plates will be removed and fastened to the trucks of units going north.

"Units coming in — not everybody, but as many as we can effect — will have quick add-on armor," Paget said.

Paget said there is no one to blame for the lack of vehicles arriving in the theater, even 20 months after the war began.

"We have a huge Army," he said. "And outfitting all of it will take time."

Plus, the nature of warfare has changed, he said. His vehicles would normally be several miles behind the front lines, ferrying supplies to the front.

In this war, he said, the front is everywhere. It simply takes time to adapt to the change.

That's why, he said, the 7th Transportation Battalion took the bull by the horns and addressed the problem its own way.

"We took the initiative on this," he said. "Nobody ever told us no."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: [jensenr@mail.esr.pent.mil](mailto:jensenr@mail.esr.pent.mil)

# Army negotiates to get more armored Humvees made

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN  
The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — The Army entered negotiations with an armor manufacturer in an effort to accelerate production of armored versions of the Humvee to get the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan more quickly, Army and company officials said.

Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey spoke with officials at Armor Holdings, Inc., based in Jacksonville, Fla., who told him Friday they could increase production by up to 100 vehicles a month.

Army officials had previously believed the factory was working at capacity until the company told the news media Thursday that it could make more. Democrats immediately criticized the Bush administration for not boosting production sooner.

Still, company officials said the Armor Holdings plant was not immediately capa-

ble of boosting output. Armor Holdings said in a statement issued Friday that it could increase its rate of production by February or March.

"During the interim period, we will continue to build as many vehicles as possible, as we have done to date. In fact, we are currently ahead of the Army's production schedule by more than 330 total vehicles," the statement said.

In addition, the Army would also have to go to Congress for additional funding if February or March.

The Army has ordered 8,105 of the armored Humvees, and 5,910 are in Iraq, Afghanistan and nearby countries. Armor Holdings is already producing 450 a month, meaning they would be finished sometime in the early spring. Any increased production by the company before then would accelerate the completion of the order.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, responding to a soldier's complaint about not enough armored vehicles for the troops, said Wednesday the Army was working to produce more armored vehicles, but it was "a matter of physics, not a matter of money," suggesting that production lines at operating at capacity.

But Armor Holdings spokesman Michael Fox said Thursday that the company recently completed an analysis after the Marines inquired about buying 50 to 100 armored vehicles each month.

"We determined it was doable," Fox said.

Armor Holdings said it expected to produce about 4,000 armored vehicles this year, compared to 500 in 2001, 600 in 2002, and 850 in 2003.

Cost of the armored Humvees is about \$150,000 each.

Production has to be coordinated with AMC General LLC of South Bend, Indi-

ana, which produces the trucks used to make the armored Humvees.

Massachusetts Democratic Sen. John F. Kerry, who continually decried the lack of equipment during his unsuccessful presidential campaign, on Friday called on Rumsfeld to investigate.

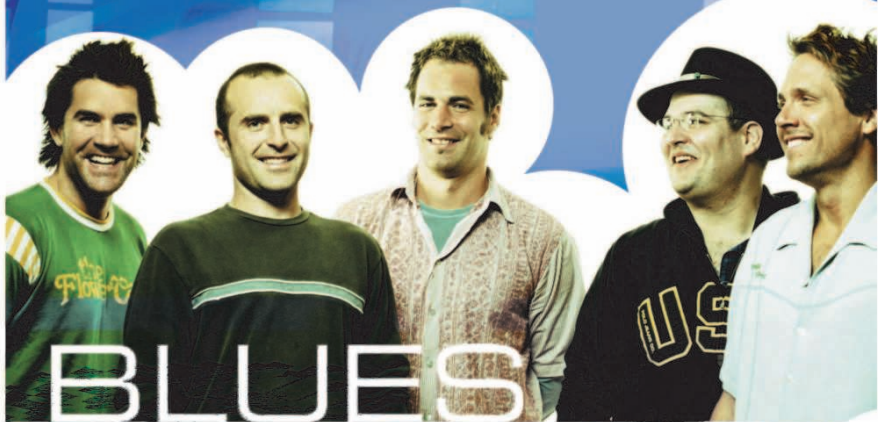
Several companies that manufacture protective equipment have indicated they can significantly boost production, Kerry said in a letter to Rumsfeld.

There are thousands more Humvees in Iraq that were built without the extra armor. The military has purchased thousands of kits with bolt-on armor, but several thousand Humvees and thousands more heavy trucks, remain without armor for use against insurgent bombs, guns and rockets.

The soldier's question to Rumsfeld, at a town-hall meeting in Kuwait this week, has led critics to ask why the Pentagon has been unable to send enough armored equipment 21 months into the war.



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# DOD increases drug testing of deployed

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The military is increasing drug testing of its forces serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, in part out of concern that troops will turn to drugs because of the stress of combat, Pentagon officials said Friday.

Drug use is low in the military and primarily limited to marijuana, said Mary Beth Long, the deputy assistant defense secretary for counternarcotics. She spoke

with the American Forces Press Service, an internal military news service.

But concerns about drug use center on Afghanistan, which has become the world's leading provider of opium since the U.S.-led campaign that drove the Taliban from power three years ago. Opium poppies can be refined into heroin; last year, Afghanistan accounted for 87 percent of the world's opium supply.

"One of the lessons that we have learned from the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan

[in the late 1970s through the late 1980s] is that those troops went back to Russia with a drug problem," Long told the news service. "Our forces are obviously very, very different. We certainly have no expectation that they would suffer the same kind of issues."

But the increased stress of serving in combat areas could drive soldiers to readily available drugs, as happened to some during the Vietnam War, officials said.

In March, the Pentagon cited surveys that said 32 percent of troops stationed at home and around the world reported feeling "a lot" of work-related stress. Almost half said they believed their careers would probably or definitely be damaged if they sought mental health counseling.

The survey also found that cigarette smoking and heavy drinking were on the rise in the military. Use of illicit drugs is holding steady, however, far below the rate for civilians.

## Soldier sentenced to 3 years for killing wounded Iraqi

By PAUL GARWOOD

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A U.S. soldier was sentenced to three years in prison for killing a severely wounded Iraqi teenager, the military said Saturday, while insurgents staged attacks in several cities, killing at least 10 Iraqis, including three police officers, two Shiite clerics and a judge.

Six American soldiers also were wounded in separate attacks in northern Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Johnny M. Horne Jr., 30, of Wilson, N.C., pleaded guilty Friday to one count of unpremeditated murder and one count of soliciting another soldier to commit unpremeditated murder.

His sentencing late Friday in-

### Series of attacks wounds six soldiers

cluded a reduction in rank to private, forfeiture of wages and a dishonorable discharge.

The charges relate to the Aug. 18 killing of a 16-year-old Iraqi male found in a burning truck with severe abdominal wounds sustained during clashes in Baghdad's Sadr City.

A criminal investigator had said during an earlier hearing that the soldiers decided to kill him to "put him out of his misery."

A panel of seven service members late Friday sentenced Horne — who is attached to Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, based in Fort Riley, Kansas

— after about four hours of deliberations, the military said Saturday.

Deadly ambushes, suicide car bombings and roadside bomb blasts took place across the country, killing at least 10 Iraqis and wounding six U.S. soldiers.

U.S. soldiers were ambushed late Friday in Ramadi, a hotbed of anti-American violence. 70 miles west of Baghdad, by insurgents firing rocket propelled grenades and small arms from the city's hospital and medical academy, the Marines claimed in a statement Saturday.

Insurgents hid inside the Ramadi General Hospital and Medical

College and in nearby areas waiting for the soldiers to move into their ambush zone, said Capt. Bradley Gordon, spokesman for the 1st Marine Division of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Officials from both the Ramadi General Hospital and Medical College rejected U.S. claims that they were used in the ambush, but said fighting occurred nearby.



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# U.S. begins new offensive in Afghanistan

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The 18,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan have begun a new offensive to hunt Taliban and al-Qaida militants through the country's harsh winter, aiming to gain their strength ahead of planned spring elections, the American military said Saturday.

Operation Lightning Freedom was initiated after Tuesday's inauguration of Hamid Karzai as the country's first democratically elected president, Maj. Mark McCann said.

"It's going on throughout the country of Afghanistan. It's designed basically to search out and destroy the remaining remnants of Taliban forces who traditionally we believe go to ground during the winter months," he said.

Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, the No. 2 American commander here, told The Associated Press last month that the mission would include a redeployment to tighten security on the Pakistan border and raids by U.S. forces to get rebel leaders.

Protecting Afghanistan's young democracy has become the most urgent priority for American commanders frustrated by their failure to capture al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, who disap-

peared here after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

The landmark Oct. 9 vote, which gave a landslide victory to Karzai, the U.S.-backed favorite, was free of the major violence threatened by Taliban diehards, who continue to fight on three years after they were ousted. Attention is already turning to the more complex National Assembly

election, slated for April.

The new military drive, which involves all 18,000 American troops here, is also aimed at persuading militants to take up an offer of amnesty from the U.S. military and the Afghan government.

"Ultimately, what we believe these operations will do is, they will establish security conditions that allow the parliamentary elec-

tions in the spring to occur with the same success" as October's vote, McCann said.

Lightning Freedom represents a new phase, rather than a shift in strategy, and commanders will continue with "a mixing of combat operations with humanitarian-type operations," the spokesman said.

However, the United States has

several thousand more troops strung out across the south and east, where insurgents are strong, compared with last winter.

McCann said the military also will help Afghan forces combat the country's drug industry by sharing intelligence, ferrying counter-narcotics units to and from raids and rescuing them if they get into serious trouble.



## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, Dec. 10, 2004, at least 1,286 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,007 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- Two soldiers died Thursday in a helicopter accident in Mosul.
- The latest identifications reported by the military:
- Marine Pfc. Christopher S. Adesberger, 20, Albuquerque, N.M.; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

- Marine Cpl. Kyle J. Renahan, 21, Oxford, Pa.; died Thursday in Kaiserslautern, Germany, from injuries received on Nov. 29 in Iraq's Babil province; assigned to Marine Air Control Squadron 2, Marine Air Control Group 28, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.

- Army Sgt. Arthur C. Williams, IV, 31, Edgewater, Fla.; died Wednesday in Ramadi, Iraq, from small arms fire; assigned to the 4th Engineer Battalion, 2d Infantry Division, Camp Howze, Korea.

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## IN THE WORLD

## Powell meets with Arab leaders in Morocco

BY GEORGE GEDDA

The Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco — U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell told a gathering of Islamic leaders on Saturday that they must join hands with industrialized countries on political and economic reforms to ease the "despair and frustration" that afflicts much of the region.

Powell was one of several speakers who addressed the "Forum of the Future" conference aimed at bringing greater dynamism to Islamic societies and making

them less of a breeding ground for political extremism.

But several Arab delegates used the occasion to blast American support for Israel.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said the United States could do a better job of winning the "hearts and minds" of the Islamic world by a shift in its policies toward Israel. He said U.S. policies toward Israel are the "real bone of contention" with the Muslim community.

Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa also drew a link between Islamic

reform and the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. "Arab culture is directly influenced by other situations," Moussa said, calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state living side by side with Israel.

At the same time, he said, "We need to combat extremism. If we are to build a strong society, we must take a strong stand against extremism."

Powell said en route here Friday night that reform in the Islamic world should not be impeded by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We can't keep pointing to the Middle

East peace process as the reason we don't undertake reform efforts that are needed by these nations and as these nations have identified for themselves," Powell said.

Muslim countries "know that they can't wait for that solution to occur and not move forward," he said.

"Ours is a long-term task requiring a long-term commitment, extending generations," Powell told the delegates in his speech Saturday. "This far-reaching effort starts here and now. It's a challenge that must be confronted by all of us working together."

## Police arrest man believed to have ordered U.N. aid workers' abduction

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A man who launched a militant Islamic group to fight U.S. forces in Afghanistan has been arrested in connection with the kidnapping of three U.N. workers there in October, a senior Pakistani Cabinet minister said Saturday.

Syed Akbar Agha, a former Taliban front-line commander in Afghanistan who later founded Jaish-al Muslimin, or Army of Muslims, was captured in the southern city of Karachi this week, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said.

"We have arrested the mastermind of the kidnapp-

ing of the U.N. workers in Afghanistan," Ahmed said.

He gave no other details other than to say the arrest was not announced immediately in hopes that interrogation of Agha would lead to other suspects being taken into custody.

Pakistani security agencies this week also arrested Abdul Hina Hemat, head of the Taliban's Bakhtar news agency, along with another person in the southwestern city of Quetta, a Taliban spokesman said. The Pakistan government had no immediate comment on the claim, and it was unclear if the two arrests were linked.

## 14 arrested after deadly explosion in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan — Police on Saturday said they arrested 14 alleged members of a nationalist group following a bomb attack in southwestern Pakistan that killed 11 people.

As many as 26 people were also wounded when a powerful bomb went off next to an army truck parked at a crowded market in Quetta on Friday, the latest in a series of bomb and rocket attacks against government forces in Baluchistan province.

Hours after the blast, a little-known militant group, the Baluchistan National Army, claimed responsibility, but said it had not meant to kill civilians. Two of the dead were soldiers.

On Saturday, Pervaz Razi Bhutti, a senior police officer, said 14 men were captured in overnight raids in different parts of the province by police acting on intelligence reports.

"These men are nationalists, but I cannot say whether any of them is directly or indirectly linked to Friday's attack," Bhutti told reporters in Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province. He said officials have no proof about the existence of the Baluchistan National Army.

From The Associated Press

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# Yushchenko has dioxin poisoning

BY SUSANNA LOOF  
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Dioxin poisoning caused the mysterious illness of Ukrainian presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko, a doctor said Saturday, adding that the poison could have been put in his soup.

Yushchenko is now in satisfactory condition and dioxin levels in his liver have returned to normal, Dr. Michael Zimpfer, director of Vienna's private Rudolfinerhaus clinic, said at a news conference.

A series of new tests provided conclusive evidence of the poisoning, Zimpfer said. "There is no doubt about the fact that Mr. Yushchenko's disease ... has been caused by a case of poisoning by dioxin."

The 50-year-old opposition leader first fell ill in September and was rushed to the Vienna hospital. He resumed campaigning later in the month but his mysterious illness had left his face pockmarked and ashen.

Yushchenko also suffered back pain, acute pancreatitis and nerve paralysis in his face.

He has accused Ukrainian authorities of trying to poison him ahead of Ukraine's presidential vote, which they have denied.

"We suspect involvement of an external party, but we cannot answer as to who cooked what or was with him while he ate," Zimpfer said, adding that tests

showed the dioxin was taken orally.

Zimpfer said Yushchenko's blood and tissue registered concentrations of dioxin — one of the most toxic chemicals — that were 1,000 times above normal levels.

"It would be quite easy to administer this amount in a soup," Zimpfer said.

Blood tests have been run on Yushchenko before, but this time the hospital sent the samples to a hospital in Amsterdam which is using a new analysis method that could test it for dioxin, Dr. Nikola Korpan said.

Korpan added that no functional damage would remain and Yushchenko was "fully capable of working."

The tests showed that Yushchenko suffered from chloracne, a type of acne caused by exposure to toxic chemicals, which sometimes takes two to three years to heal, hospital dermatologist Hubert Pelmberger told The Associated Press.

A former representative for rival candidate Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich on the Central Election Commission, Stepan Havrysh, questioned the results, saying that while he felt sorry for Yushchenko, "I'm afraid, two weeks before the vote, it's all political technologies."

Dioxin is formed as a byproduct from industrial processes such as waste incineration or chemical manufacturing.



BY MOHAMMED  
DARAGHMEH  
The Associated Press

# Nephew says Arafat may have died from 'unnatural' causes

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Yasser Arafat's nephew said Saturday the lack of a clear reason for his uncle's death raised suspicions the late-Palestinian leader died of "unnatural" causes.

The comments by Nasser al-Kidwa, after he handed over the 538-page medical dossier to Palestinian officials in Ramallah, were certain to fuel speculation that Arafat was poisoned. Arafat died in a French hospital on Nov. 11.

Rumors and speculation, both among Palestinians and the broader Arab world, that Arafat was poisoned could make it more difficult for a new leadership to take control. Palestinian presidential elections are scheduled for Jan. 9.

Al-Kidwa repeated his statement from last month that the French doctors were unable to rule out the possibility that Arafat had been poisoned, although they said they had not found traces of "any poison known to them."

"Examinations of X-rays and all imaginable tests ... are still with the same results, the inability of reaching a clear diagnosis," Al-Kidwa said in English at a news conference in Ramallah on Saturday.

"That is precisely the reason why suspicions are there, because without a reason you cannot escape the other possibility ... that there is unnatural cause for the death," he added.

French officials have said that judicial authorities would have acted had they suspected wrongdoing.

Al-Kidwa received Arafat's dossier from French medical officials last month. On Saturday he gave the records to interim Palestinian President Raouf Fattouh in Ramallah. A committee will look over the file to try to determine the cause of death.

Al-Kidwa and other Palestinian officials have said Israel contributed to Arafat's death by confining him to his battered West Bank compound for the last three years of his life.

Palestinian Health Minister Jawad Tibi said Saturday the committee appointed to study the medical records would be composed of Palestinian and Arab doctors who treated Arafat before he was urgently airlifted to Paris on Oct. 29.

Al-Kidwa said Palestinian officials would pursue their investigation until they reach a clear conclusion, and vowed to make the diagnosis public. "This file should remain open until the Palestinian people find out the truth," he said.



AP photos

Doctors have concluded that dioxin poisoning caused the disfigurement of Ukrainian opposition leader and presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko. In July, top, Yushchenko appeared healthy, but by December, above, his face was left pockmarked and ashen by the dioxin.

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## IN THE STATES

## Homeland security nominee withdraws bid

## Kerik cites nanny immigration status problem

BY KATHERINE PFLERGER  
SHIRADER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bernard Kerik apologized to President Bush on Saturday after questions about the immigration status of a housekeeper-nanny he employed led the former New York City police commissioner to withdraw his nomination as homeland security chief.

"I owe the president an enormous amount of gratitude for this consideration. I owe him a great apology that this may have caused him and his administration a big distraction," Kerik said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press from his home in Franklin Lakes, N.J.

"I'm going to spend some time with my family. I'm going out to people on getting messages out to people close to me who have been supportive, apologizing for the embarrassment," Kerik said.

The surprise withdrawal late Friday sends Bush back in search of a Cabinet official to help guard the country against terrorists.

While assembling paperwork for his Senate confirmation, Kerik said he uncovered questions about the immigration status of a housekeeper-nanny that he employed. As homeland security secretary, Kerik would oversee the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

"I am convinced that, for personal reasons, moving forward would not be in the best interests of your administration, the Department of Homeland Security or the American people," Kerik said in a letter to Bush.

In an interview, Kerik said that on Wednesday he discovered financial records "that led me to question the tax filings regarding a housekeeper and nanny that was employed by me in my house, a very nice woman, a very good woman, someone who loves my children and they love her."

By Friday afternoon, Kerik said, "I came to realize that that



Former New York City Police Commissioner Bernie Kerik, President Bush's choice to be secretary of homeland security, has withdrawn his name from consideration, the White House announced late Friday.

there was not only a problem with the filings, there may have been a question with regard to her legal status in the country."

In the letter to Bush, Kerik said he could not allow personal matters to "distract from the focus and progress of the Department of Homeland Security and its crucial endeavors."

Kerik was among a small group of leaders who became the face of the response to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, often directing Manhattan's response alongside of then-Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

When Bush announced Kerik's nomination last week, he won early support in Republican and some Democratic quarters.

But others questioned whether Kerik had the management experience to continue the nearly 2-year-long effort to meld the Homeland Security Department, which has more than 180,000 employees from 22 federal agencies.

Democrats also were focusing

on Kerik's recent financial windfall from exercising stock options in a stun gun company that did business with the Department of Homeland Security. He earned \$6.2 million from the options received from Taser International.

Kerik's announcement marked an unusual disruption in the White House's normally well-choreographed personnel moves. But he is not the first prominent government official to fall victim to the "nanny problem."

Similar issues killed the nominations of three candidates for top administration posts in the Clinton administration. That includes Zoe Baird, who was forced to withdraw her name from consideration to be attorney general after the disclosure she had not paid Social Security taxes for a housekeeper, an illegal immigrant.

While Kerik confided in a close circle of associates, the announcement came as a surprise to many government insiders.

Associated Press writers Donna de la Cruz, Ted Bricks and Gwyn Barrett contributed to this report.

## Immigration woes plagued Bill Clinton's nominations

The Associated Press

Bernard Kerik's decision to withdraw his name as homeland security secretary-designate over issues involving hired help at home is not the first time a president has had his Cabinet and other high-level appointments killed by the nanny problem.

A look at three individuals who withdrew their names as nominees by President Clinton for Cabinet and other high-level posts because of similar political obstacles:

■ **Zoe Baird:** The attorney who was Clinton's top pick for attorney general became the first of a series of nominees to fall victim to the "nanny problem." She had not paid Social Security taxes for a housekeeper—an illegal immigrant—as required by law. Baird asked the White House to withdraw her nomination.

■ **Lani Guinier:** A Clinton classmate at Yale University Law School, she was Clinton's choice to head the Justice Department's civil rights division. Clinton cited her legal writings on racial issues for dropping the nomination. She also had not paid taxes for a domestic worker.

■ **Kimba Wood:** The nomination of the federal district judge to be attorney general never went forward after the disclosure that she had hired an illegal immigrant as a baby sitter. She had paid the required Social Security taxes and broke no laws.

■ **President Bush** faced a similar problem in 2001 in setting up his first Cabinet when conservative commentator Linda Chavez stepped aside as nominee for labor secretary after it was disclosed she had given money and sheltered an illegal immigrant who once did chores around her house.



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## Bush 'fit for duty'

BETHESDA, Maryland — President Bush was pronounced "fit for duty" by his doctors after his annual physical Saturday. The checkup was delayed for four months because of his heavy travel schedule during the campaign.

"I have interviewed and examined President George W. Bush and have reviewed his medical record," a statement signed by 10 doctors said. "Within the scope of my specialty, I find him to be fit for duty and have every reasonable expectation that he will remain fit for duty for the duration of his presidency."

The White House planned to release details of the four-hour examination later Saturday.

From The Associated Press

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# People from all over flock to Clinton store

BY DAVID HAMMER

The Associated Press

**LITTLE ROCK** — A meowing Socks the Cat doll could show up in a stocking stuffed by former President Bill Clinton this year.

Clinton is among thousands of people from around the world who have spent more than \$400,000 at the Clinton Museum Store since it opened Nov. 15.

The former president placed a phone order from Chappaqua, N.Y., on Thursday, calling museum store manager Connie Falls to order a commemorative Clinton Presidential Library dedication dinner plate, two plates by Picard china and a Woodmere china reproduction of the

## Former president among customers ordering from library's shop

plates Presidents Lincoln and Jackson used when they were in the White House.

He also ordered silk scarves that his library's volunteer staff wears, Air Force One toys that emit the sound of plane engines when squeezed, neckties, stuffed donkeys and a Socks the Cat doll that says "meow."

"I'm still totaling up the bill. Yes, he has to pay for it," Falls said.

The gift shop two blocks from the Clinton Library was bustling at the seams during the dedication celebration three weeks ago, and sales didn't slow much after the international visitors left town.

Over Thanksgiving weekend, store employees had to stop shoppers at the door to make sure they didn't exceed capacity. And just when lines weren't forming down President Clinton Avenue anymore, the museum store replaced that volume by starting Internet sales.

"We sent out an e-mail to 1,200 people Monday night that they could shop online, and by the time we opened the next morning we had 40 orders," Falls said.

Tyler Denton, marketing director for the Clinton Foundation, which built the library and set up the museum store, suggested putting maps of the United States and the

world in an unfinished hallway by the exit door with pushpins available for customers. The maps already tell the story of the store's popularity and Little Rock's sudden global appeal. Shoppers have marked every continent except Antarctica with the red pins.

The visitors come to see the library, but they are pulled into the rest of Little Rock by the museum store, which sits between the library and the downtown River Market district.

"This week I had visitors from Jackson, Miss., and Topeka, Kan., tell me, 'You're a weekend getaway now,'" Denton said.

# Security at clubs in question after deadly Ohio shootings

The Associated Press

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** — A night-club shooting that left four people dead, including a heavy-metal guitarist, has concert bookers and bar managers wondering whether fans will grumble less the next time they're patted down or directed through a metal detector.

Scott Stenecker, for one, thinks it will. "It'll be a whole different feeling, I bet."

Stenecker's PromoWest Productions owns two Columbus concert halls larger than the Alrosa Villa, where 25-year-old Nathan Gale gunned down "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott and three others

before a police officer shot him to death.

Caroline O'Toole, though, and many of her fellow managers doubt Wednesday's violence will mean any significant changes.

"I don't think you can let the actions of one lunatic affect the industry as a whole," said O'Toole, who manages The Stone Pony.

Police say they may never know what made Gale target Abbott, who with brother and drummer Vinnie Paul Abbott left thrash-metal pioneer Pantera and later formed Damageplan. A friend said Gale recently started claiming that Pantera stole songs he wrote.

Alrosa's owner, Rick Caulea, told The Columbus Dispatch that he hired seven guards based on sales of 200 tickets before the doors opened.

Gale also killed Erin Hank, 29, a club employee who loaded band equipment; fan Nathan Bray, 23; and band bodyguard Jeff Thompson, 40.

"This is a very tragic situation, but isolated," said Mark Leddy, co-owner of Beachland Ballroom in Cleveland.

But a San Diego police officer and security consultant argued for more training for the largely unregulated job of nightclub security worker.



CHICAGO TRIBUNE/KURT

**Abdul Latif catches a few winks at MetroNaps in New York City in late November. Latif says he stops into the service, which offers a place for clients to nap, about three times a week.**

## New sleep pods made for tired NYC workers

BY STEVENSON SWANSON

Chicago Tribune

**NEW YORK** — The days are short and cold. The lists of year-end and holiday chores are endless. Rich food and befogging beverages abound.

Sounds like a good time for a nap.

The holiday stretch that begins with the feasting of Thanksgiving and ends with the bleary eyes of New Year's Day is surely the high season for the oft-maligned practice of catching 40 winks.

At least that is the hope of two young entrepreneurs who are heading into their first holiday season as the proprietors of MetroNaps, a space-age snooze station that opened earlier this year at the Empire State Building.

For \$14, sapping shoppers and weary workers can put their feet up for a 20-minute power nap in a snugly lit space filled with seven sleep pods.

A third of an hour may not sound like much, but a brief mid-afternoon nap can be just the thing to make the rest of the day productive. A 2002 study by Harvard University researchers found that subjects who napped were better able to process information and learn new skills than those who stayed awake.

"We allow people to do more with their day," said co-owner Christopher Lindholm, 29. "There's a natural tendency to be drowsy in the afternoon, but we

know that Americans are chronically sleep-deprived."

Occupying an office space on the skyscraper's 24th floor, MetroNaps has had steady business since opening in May, he said.

The company's custom-built napping stations resemble lounge chairs with their leg rests extended. Nappers can adjust their leg elevation to reduce cardiac strain, and a spherical hood can be pulled down over the upper body for greater darkness.

Headphones pip in ethereal music that soon induces a trance-like state. After 20 minutes, the back of the chair vibrates and the lights come on in the pod.

Co-owner Arshad Chowdhury came up with the idea for MetroNaps while he was working as an investment banker in New York. In a business notorious for its brutal hours, he saw co-workers fall asleep at their desks or sneak off to the bathroom to take a nap.

While studying for his MBA at Carnegie Mellon University, Chowdhury researched the idea of a business that would charge people to take naps. Although a few companies provide napping lounges for their employees, he knows of no enterprise like MetroNaps.

"There is an unfortunate and outmoded notion of napping," said Chowdhury, 28, referring to the perception that napping is a sign of laziness. "Our biggest challenge was to repackaging napping."

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# OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

### Alabama can't get past it The Times-Picayune, New Orleans

The remnants of segregation continued to exist in the constitutions and statutes of Southern states long after federal laws made them moot.

By now, though, most official vestiges of Jim Crow ought to have disappeared as states crafted modern constitutions or stripped offensive language out of old documents. Not so in Alabama.

The state still uses its 1901 Constitution, which was written expressly to deny voting rights and a decent education to African-Americans. What's more, voters refused this fall to remove language supporting segregation from the 103-year-old document.

... Progress on to segregation, even if it is only on paper and is unenforceable, will hold the state back. Alabama has a hateful history on racial issues, a history that has affected its image and limited its ability to thrive economically.

This was a chance to walk away from the past and show the world that Alabama has changed. The truth may be that it hasn't changed much after all.

### Game's shame chamber empty The Buffalo (N.Y.) News

Americans have been fascinated by video games ever since someone figured out a way to play a simple game of pong on a television screen. Thirty years later, video games have reached a level of sophistication that rivals the best military battlefield simulation.

Too bad good taste hasn't kept pace.

The game has gone too far in a computer simulation titled "JFK Reloaded," in which players re-create the 1963 assassination of a U.S. president. Games "fire" three shots at President Kennedy's car. Lee Harvey Oswald's re-created sixth-floor perch in the Texas School Book Depository. There's a potential prize for exact replication of the real shots, and points are deducted for mistakes, such as hitting the first lady. The game, if it can be termed as such, was released on Nov. 22, the 41st anniversary of the shooting in Dallas.

Family members have described it as "despicable." This may not go far enough in describing just how low the Scotland-based firm Trafalgar, designer of the game, sunk in marketing what it inexcusably calls an educational "docu-game" intended to refute the theory that a conspiracy was behind the assassination.

This isn't about free speech, it's about decency. "JFK Reloaded" trivializes an awful period in our nation's history.

Even though speech is protected under the Constitution, there are limits. ... [E]ncouraging even the play-acting of such violence isn't in the best interest of anyone.

### Warning labels all must read The Cincinnati Enquirer

While a Food and Drug Administration committee reviewing Procter & Gamble's testosterone patch for women didn't say no [this month], it clearly said, "Slow."

The advisory group wants to see broader, more controlled testing of the "passion patch," which P&G says will restore sexual desire in women whose ovaries have been removed.

There is a fine balance between necessary caution and unnecessary delays in getting needed drugs to market. While a setback to P&G, caution is an appropriate message for drug manufacturers, the FDA itself and even consumers. ...

Americans seem more willing to try a drug with long-term effects may not be known, even for ailments such as acne that



"I BOUGHT YOU SOMETHING TO WEAR THAT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL SEXY."

are not life-threatening. That lack of consumer worry may be one reason the FDA committee worried so much over long-term effects for the patch, Intrinsa. ... Others said it only made sense to use caution when weighing Intrinsa's modest results.

It's a model for the sort of critical thinking consumers, too, should exhibit in a world where there's a pill for anything and everything that ails you.

### Can workers keep account? St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times

President Bush seems determined to privatize part of Social Security by allowing individual workers to invest a portion of their retirement payments in the stock market. ... Can individuals rely on themselves to make the best investment choices? A recent article in The Wall Street Journal suggests that the answer may be no. ...

One study of the difference in performance between professionally managed pension funds and self-directed 401(k)s found that the pension funds earned almost 0.5 percent more each year. ...

This will be tricky ground for Bush to tread. If the personal account offerings under Social Security are too limited or cost too much, the effort might be seen as nothing more than a payoff to Wall Street. If too little guidance is made available, then workers could end up with a false notion that their retirements are more secure than they really are.

### Minors' policy all the rage The Times Union, Albany, N.Y.

Either baseball demonstrates that it understands the magnitude of the steroids scandal, or the government is going to have to intervene to save it from itself.

Baseball's reigning slugger, Barry Bonds, has been caught, or something quite close to it, using steroids. ... Jason Giambi of the New York Yankees, not so long ago a rather remarkable hitter himself, has admitted using steroids. And both of them are almost sure to get away with it.

The drug-testing policy in the major leagues is a joke. ... The first time a player is caught using steroids, it's mandatory counseling. The next time — and remember, testing only occurs once a season — it's a 15-day suspension. It would take five positive tests before a player could be banned for as long as a year.

... The recipe for the mess baseball finds itself in. ...

Congress has the power ... to impose a new policy on the players, the owners and the enablers in the commissioner's office. ...

A sensible policy is out there, in baseball's minor leagues. Players are tested four times a year, and the first documented instance of using steroids means an automatic suspension. The race is on to see who first embraces it, for the good of the game.

### FDA should think safety first Los Angeles Times

The Food and Drug Administration over the past decade has shifted its budget away from monitoring the safety of drugs on the market, focusing more and more on approving new medicines. That policy has an obvious side effect: Time after time, the agency has been slow to respond to evidence about the dangers of drugs on the market.

The FDA has wandered from its central mission. Patient safety should always come first, whether it's a new drug or an old drug. ...

It took the FDA four years to respond to evidence that Vioxx increased the risk of heart attacks. Why so long? A recent New York Times story, examining the flow of funds inside the FDA, explains it this way: Roughly a decade ago, about half of the agency's money went to drug safety and other areas, the other half to approving new drugs. Now, nearly 80 percent of the money goes to approving new drugs. ...

The FDA must show it is more than an efficient reviewer of new drugs. One way to start is to reorder priorities, and that means restoring the ranks of monitors who are watchdogs for drugs already on the market.

### Law schools lay down law The Washington Post

A federal appeals court decision to strike down the so-called Solomon Amendment highlights the layers of bad policy that have led to an unfortunate standoff between the military and a group of law schools. The amendment, named for the late Rep. Gerald B.H. Solomon, N.Y., cuts off federal money to universities that don't treat military recruiters as favorably as those recruiting for other potential employers. Numerous law schools, because of the military's policy toward gays and lesbians, balked at assisting military recruiters, on the grounds that school policies for helping organizations that discriminate. When the military, after

the Sept. 11 attacks, started enforcing the law more aggressively, the law schools went to court.

While the legal merits of the case are complicated, the government's moral position is indefensible. The underlying policy of discriminating against gays and lesbians is an affront to patriotic Americans who wish to serve their country. The policy makes homosexual servicemembers deny who they are, though there is no evidence that they are, and has any detrimental impact on their ability to serve. ... The Solomon Amendment then adds insult to injury by forcing universities to become complicit in the insulting and damaging rule. These rules are offensive, and the solution is to abolish them.

In the meantime, however, the law schools face a difficult question. They would never allow a private employer who openly discriminated against gays and lesbians — or, for that matter, against Catholics or African-Americans — to avail themselves of their career services. They should be entitled to uphold the same principle for the military. But banning military recruiters from campuses contributes to a cultural gulf that already divides elite universities from the armed services. ... A fruitful engagement between the military and these law schools seems essential, and an open recruiting environment should be part of that.

### Ridge climbed a mountain The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, Pa.

[Tom] Ridge resigned this month as director of Homeland Security, and probably is sleeping well at night for the first in a long time. ...

Some will judge Ridge's tenure in that new Cabinet-level position as only average, but his true accomplishments, like the man himself, aren't flashy or worthy of many television sound bites.

Ridge managed to combine 22 different and competitive agencies and make a department of Homeland Security. The department has about 180,000 employees and is three times the size of computer giant Microsoft.

If any one person managed to do that in the private sector, in a mere three years, he or she would be honored and touted as a business guru.

Say all you want about duct tape and orange alerts. America wasn't attacked under Tom Ridge's watch. And that's good enough for us to rank his performance as highly satisfactory.

## Gay visitation rights

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — A state judge has ruled that two mothers are better than one, but the state appeals court is considering how much protection Utah law provides to gay or unrelated partners raising children related to only one partner.

The dispute between two women arose out of the civil union they entered in Vermont four years ago.

Utah Third District Judge Timothy Hanson awarded visitation rights to one of the women, who says she has become involved in religion and no longer identifies herself as gay.

The couple was joined in a Vermont civil union four years ago, then broke up. The judge ruled a Taylorsville woman has a right to visit the 3-year-old girl.

## Internet schooling

**NH** NEW HAMPTON — Illness has kept him at home, but 11-year-old Zachary Ellis is still going to class.

Zachary, of New Hampton, attends four classes each day with the students at Newfound Memorial Middle School through the use of laptop computers, the Internet and Web-based cameras. Students can hear him ask questions, make comments and see him raise his hand, even though he is sitting in his room at home.

Zachary was diagnosed with autoimmune liver disease and Crohn's disease two years ago. Both conditions deplete the immune system, limiting his interaction with others that may expose him to germs, especially during flu season.

## 8-year-old suspended

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — An 8-year-old girl was suspended for nine days for bringing to school what appeared to be about 30 "Jell-O shots" — though it was unclear whether they contained alcohol.

The incident occurred Nov. 29, as the girl stood after classes outside Geraldine Boudreaux Elementary School in Terrebonne, a New Orleans suburb. A teacher spotted liquid dripping out of the student's bookbag and found what looked like the small cups of alcohol-laced gelatin that are sold in bars, schools spokesman Jeff Nowakowski said.

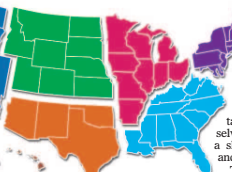
The girl told the principal that her mother, who works in a bar, makes alcoholic shots at home and sells them at work. The fourth-grader said her mother had instructed her to take the shots to school and sell them, three for \$1, to make some money for Christmas, Nowakowski said.

The gelatin was turned over to the sheriff's department for testing to see if it contained alcohol.

## Long way from home

**TX** FLOWER MOUND — Snowbirds from the frigid North are a common sight in Texas, but Carla is a different breed altogether.

A trucker found the 11-year-old mixed breed dog in Amarillo and brought her to a Denton veterinary hospital — 1,600 miles away from



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

her Castle Rock, Wash., home. Gail Scott was shocked when the North Texas animal hospital called to say they'd found her dog, who was identified through an implanted microchip.

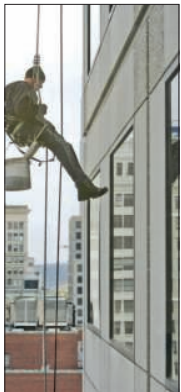
Scott says she believes Carla escaped from her yard the day before Thanksgiving and was picked up by a trucker at a nearby truck stop.

## Ghost for sale

**IN** INDIANAPOLIS — A cane that belonged to a 6-year-old boy's grandfather soon will have a new home — and, Colin Anderson hopes, so will his grandfather's ghost.

GoldenPalace.com will add the "ghost cane" to a collection that already includes a grilled cheese sandwich said to bear the image of the Virgin Mary. The Anti-ga-based casino paid \$28,000 last month for the sandwich, which it bought — like the cane — on eBay. "It's just the new Americana thing," said Monty Kerr, a spokesman for the online casino that on Monday offered Mary Anderson \$65,000 for her father's metal walking cane.

Kerr said the cane — which Anderson auctioned to ease her son Collin's fears that his grandfather's ghost was haunting their home in Hobart — likely will go on



## Not afraid of heights

A window washer rappels down the side of a building in Cincinnati.

tour like the famous sandwich.

## Taxi safety

**CA** BALDWIN PARK — The City Council approved an ordinance requiring that taxi drivers protect themselves with safety devices like a shield separating the front and back seats.

The move came after the killing last month of a Stanford University student in the city since 2000 to be fatally shot while on the job. Taxis will be required to be equipped with a shield, emergency signal or remote locator system.

## Reward declined

**MO** KANSAS CITY — An anonymous tipster who was eligible to receive a \$40,000 reward for providing information that led to an arrest in a murder case has turned the money down, asking that it go instead to a charity established in the victim's name.

Ali Kemp, a 19-year-old college student, was strangled two years ago while working at a swimming pool in Leawood, Kan., an affluent Kansas City suburb. The widely publicized case generated thousands of leads, yet none of the tips produced an arrest.

But information provided by an anonymous caller led to the arrest last month of Benjamin Appleby, a former resident of the Kansas City area who was captured in Connecticut, where he was living under another name.

Appleby, 29, is charged with capital murder and attempted rape. He is being held on \$1 million bond.

## Mayor's mail tainted

**NE** LINCOLN — A small amount of potentially dangerous mercury spilled from an anonymous letter sent to the mayor's office, authorities said.

A second mercury-laced letter was sent to the police chief, but was not opened. No injuries resulted from the letters, which were critical of the police department.

The small amount of mercury appeared to have come from a thermometer. Research has shown that excessive exposure to mercury can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and children.

## Drought continues

**AZ** PHOENIX — Cloudy, wet weather has covered Arizona for days, but it won't be enough to break a nine-year drought, said Tony Haffer, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Phoenix.

The state would need about three times normal rainfall, or about 25 inches in one year, to signal the end of the drought, Haffer said.

## Charter school restriction

**RI** PROVIDENCE — Gov. Don Carcieri announced that he plans to file legislation in the upcoming session of the General Assembly to eliminate restrictions on the number of charter schools allowed in each school district. Carcieri said the caps keep students on waiting lists and out of class.



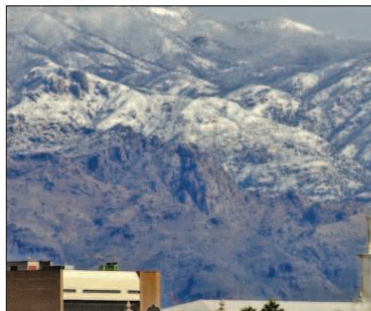
## Wet kiss

Busch Gardens Tampa Bay Zoo Educator Amber Wisler, left, holds a mulberry leaf next to ten-year-old Alice Beck's cheek to help initiate a kiss from Tango the giraffe, in Tampa, Fla.



## Oy, a new toy

Meisha, the 8-year-old dog of Stan and Joni Sucan, goes to work on a stuffed giraffe fish, in Columbus, Ohio. The fish is one of the items in Chewish Treats' line of Jewish holiday-inspired pet toys.



## Snow leaves beautiful sight

Snow is seen on the Saratoga mountains during a winter storm that p



Looks comfy

John Anderson of Gail, Texas, tries out a shitsu massage chair at the Cowboy Christmas show at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas.



Southern snowman

Due to a lack of snowfall in south Louisiana, Henry Brunet built his snowman from Spanish moss, which is displayed in front of his Dularge, La., home. According to the Louisiana Office of State Climatology, the last trace of snow that fell in the Terrebonne Parish area was in March 1993.



Staying close to mom

A female bonobo, or pygmy chimpanzee, named Lana holds her baby at the San Diego Zoo in San Diego, Calif.



to Catalina Mountains as the Saint Augustine Church in downtown Tucson, Ariz., looms in the foreground, followed through the city.

## Wildebust attack

**IN** NORTH LIBERTY — A wildebeest that was part of a man's menagerie of exotic animals trampled him to death on his northern Indiana farm, police said.

It was unclear what caused the roughly 500-pound wildebeest, an African antelope also known as a gnu, to attack Klaus "Dick" Radandt, 64, in the barnyard behind his home in North Liberty.

Police said Radandt's wife, Terri Lynn, became concerned when he did not return for lunch after going to the barnyard.

She investigated and found him lying on the ground and called paramedics, who were unable to revive him.

St. Joseph County Coroner Chuck Hurley said the male animal apparently used its head to repeatedly ram Radandt and then trampled him after he fell to the ground. The official cause of death was blunt force trauma to the chest and head, Hurley said.

With a female wildebeest nearby, the animal may have considered Radandt a threat.

## Jury spares man's life

**KS** KANSAS CITY — A jury recommended a life sentence for a man convicted of killing five people in retaliation for the robbery and beating of his mother, sparing him the death penalty.

The same jury convicted Darrell Stallings on five counts of capital murder and other charges in the June 2002 shooting rampage in Kansas City, Kan. Prosecutors said none of the victims was involved in the attack on Stallings' mother.

Stallings, 34, who is scheduled for sentencing in January, apologized to the families of each victim.

Another man, Errik Harris, 28, is also charged in the deaths, but his trial date has not been set.

## Lawnmower getaway

**NH** DOVER — It wasn't exactly the perfect getaway vehicle.

A man took off on a lawnmower after allegedly fleeing three two-Motolov toolkits at his ex-girlfriend's apartment building, police said. He was arrested after a brief, slow-speed chase.

Police said the homemade bombs — two glass Budweiser bottles filled with gasoline and plugged with rags — did not burst into flames. One of them shattered, spilling gas and sending fumes into nearby apartments. Two residents were treated for breathing problems.

Steven Coleman, 37, of Dover, was arraigned in Dover District Court on charges of criminal trespass, attempted arson, and resisting arrest, a misdemeanor. He could face up to 31 years in jail if convicted on all charges.

## Donations rejected

**NC** STATESVILLE — The owner of an adult night club that last year gave gifts to hundreds of needy children in public housing says he's been told "thanks, but no thanks" this year.

Jeff Bustle, owner of Teasers,

said the Statesville Housing Authority told him that it won't accept gifts collected at his business.

"It's really sad," said Bustle, who has participated in toy drives for the past 14 years. Last year, Teasers donated more than 500 gifts to the authority.

David Meachem, executive director of the housing authority, said he rejected the toys because he was criticized last year for accepting the donation.

## Wal-Mart robbed

**TX** BURLESON — Holiday shoppers were pepper-sprayed by a gunman who stole a bag of money from an armored car's guard at a North Texas Wal-Mart.

Twenty-two people required medical treatment after the gunman began spraying startled shoppers and workers after the robbery in front of the store. Authorities said six customers were hospitalized with breathing problems and 16 other people were treated at the Wal-Mart.

The handbag escaped in a white van, which was found abandoned in a field about seven miles away.

## City code change

**UT** PROVO — Residents here can now officially own both cats **AND** dogs.

City Council members voted unanimously to replace the word "or" with the word "and" in existing city code, which means residents can now own up to two cats and — two dogs at the same time.

The problem was discovered when Susan Sewell and her family went to the Utah County Animal Shelter in Spanish Fork to adopt a kitten in August. The family already has a cat and a dog.

They chose a kitten and began filling out the adoption paperwork. But when shelter staff learned of their existing pets, the family was told they couldn't have the new animal because Provo only allowed residents to have cats or dogs, not cats and dogs.

## Hamburger assault

**NH** ROCHESTER — Tony Carr wanted to pay for his burger.

Instead, police say, he ended up smooching the microwaved patty in a store clerk's face.

Carr, 37, of Berwick, Maine, turned himself into police. He was charged with simple assault and criminal mischief, both misdemeanors, and released on \$5,000 bail. He is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 3.

Investigators say Carr got angry on Nov. 28 when the clerk at a Cumberland Farms would not allow him to pay for a hamburger while it was heating in the store microwave.

Police said the clerk, Scott Lizenberger, told Carr he had to bring the burger to the counter 15 feet away to pay for it.

Instead of paying for it, Carr shoved it into the clerk's face, burning his face and eye, police Sgt. Anthony Triano said.

Stories and photos from wire services



## AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>



SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

# Walter Scott's Personality PARADE

Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Write Walter Scott, Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.

**Q** Maria Menounos of "Entertainment Tonight" is gorgeous. I hear she lost a lot of weight. How much, and how did she do it? — Tiffany Sheets, San Diego  
**A** "I dropped 40 pounds in one year," says the 5-foot-8, 123-pound Maria. "I cut back on carbs and worked out with a trainer on an elliptical machine." Along with ET, Maria, 26, appears on The WB's "One Tree Hill." And next year she'll be in the film "Fantastic Four." Maria tells us: "I kept my size-12 pants as a souvenir."



FOX

Jasmine Trias captured the hearts of Filipinos.

**Q** I've heard that Jasmine Trias is the most successful American Idol of them all. Is that true? — D. DeLong, Portland, Ore.  
**A** It depends on what you mean by successful. Jasmine came in third — after Fantasia Barrino and Diana DeGarmo — so they were more successful on "American Idol." But the 18-year-old became a huge star in her parents' native country, the Philippines, where she signed numerous lucrative endorsement deals that her rivals might envy.



Richard Gere is known for making his leading ladies look good — he even makes even Jennifer Lopez appealing in "Shall We Dance."

**Q** Can you give me some personal stats on the Houston Rockets' Yao Ming? — Darryl Grant, Kent, Wash.  
**A** At 7 feet 6, Ming is tied with Shawn Bradley of Dallas as the NBA's tallest player. He inherited his size and athleticism from his parents, both former basketball players in China. Since being drafted by Houston in 2002, he's learned to drive, written a book ("Yao: A Life in Two Worlds") and worked on his English. "Mostly," Ming tells us, "I'm trying to learn to trash talk on the court."

**Q** In your opinion, who was the better actress: Bette Davis or Ingrid Bergman? — Vinod Shafila, McLean, Va.  
**A** It's a close call. Each won two Best Actress Oscars, but otherwise their track records were very different. Davis (1908-89) made her mark playing larger-than-life women tough enough to stand up to any man. Bergman (1915-82) became famous as a wholesome beauty vulnerable in both her onscreen and offscreen love affairs. Our vote for "best" goes to Davis — but we're interested in hearing what our readers think.

**Q** Since Jerry Orbach left "Law & Order," I've eagerly awaited his new show. What happened to it? — Louise Beck, McKeesport, Pa.

**A** Your patience will be rewarded. Orbach, 69, is now shooting episodes of "Trial by Jury," to debut early next year. The fourth in NBC's "Law & Order" franchise, the show will have Jerry back as Lennie Briscoe, with Bebe Neuwirth as a tough assistant DA. If the networks keep clowning their cash cows, there soon will be nothing to watch on TV except "CSI," "Law & Order" and Donald Trump.



AP

Prince Harry has a reason to despise the paparazzi.

**Q** The media were hard on Britain's Prince Harry for getting into a shouting match with a photographer outside a London nightclub. Is he really such a naughty prince? — Julie Ann Jones, Detroit  
**A** Not really. Harry's behavior is understandable — and excusable — when you remember that his mother, Diana, died while fleeing a pack of paparazzi. Harry, 20, is no dropout in any sense. He plans to join the army and follow in the military footsteps of other British royals.

**Q** I'm not a fan of Jennifer Lopez, but I thought she was terrific in "Shall We Dance." Who finally turned her into a real actress? — David Gibson, New York

**A** We give full credit to co-star Richard Gere, 55, who brings out the best in his leading ladies. He did it with Debra Winger in "An Officer and a Gentleman," Julia Roberts in "Pretty Woman" and Diane Lane in "Unfaithful." JLo says that Gere's Buddhist spirituality helps him bring a calming and soothing influence to the movie set.



**Q** Can you tell me who the United States Poet Laureate is? — Frank Kessler, Washington, D.C.

**A** He's Ted Kooser, 65, a cancer survivor and recently retired insurance salesman. During his appointment (from October to May), he receives a \$35,000 stipend and reads his poetry at the Library of Congress.

**Q** Renée Zellweger, Nicole Kidman and even Reese Witherspoon of "Legally Blonde" all went brunette recently. Why? — Letitia L., Chevy Chase, Md.

**A** For Reese and Nicole, it was for film roles. Other blondes, like Renée, find that it's fun to go over to the "dark side." They also like the anonymity a change in color may provide. After going dark a few years ago, Gwyneth Paltrow said it was the first time she could sit at a bar without being recognized. But, as Hollywood colorist Kim Vo notes, "They always go back to being blonde."

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AP

SHNS

Brown on blonde: Whether for their jobs, for anonymity or just for a change, several blond actresses are trying life as a brunette for a little while. At left is Renée Zellweger, who left blonde behind after her second stab at "Bridget Jones." Nicole Kidman, at right, has "gone brown" for several movie roles.

## YOUR MONEY

# Organizations can reduce post-vacation blues

Susie Besaw, from the book "The Savvy Sailor's Spouse," is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband Jake's new command.

**M**y neighbor Maggie Warren and her family took a week's vacation at the end of July.

"I didn't realize how much I'd miss my daily talks with her until she was gone. A few days after the Warrens left, Mom called from Whidbey Island.

"How's your preparation for family beach week coming?" she asked.

I froze. One, because it drove me crazy when my mom caught me off guard, and two, because I had completely forgotten about beach week. For my family, the pinnacle of the year is a week in August we call family beach week. My parents always rented the same house on the shore. This year was no different except I was a day of travel away from the beach house instead of one hour away in Whidbey and I had a spouse — in the Navy.

"Uh, fine," I replied, with a stutter. "You haven't started preparing, have you?" she asked, with a chuckle. "I had a hunch it was going to be a challenge for you to make arrangements this year. The life of a newlywed can be pretty complicated even if you're not married to a man in the military. You'd better make your plans soon if you want to come to the beach house this year. Anything I can do to help?"

As usual, she was one step ahead of me, which is her job as a mom. Now, instead of Mom taking care of all the family vacation details, I was going to have to figure out how to organize, arrange and pay my family's vacations.

I needed to get organized and I'd start with my mom's famous vacation-to-do list. I picked up a piece of paper and started writing.

First, Jake needed to take time off from work. Not taking any chances, I called him at work and asked him to put in his leave permission chit. He agreed and was hopeful that his chain of command would approve his request even though he had not been at the command that long. I checked his LES and he was available to leave days available to take the week off.

Next was my vacation. I called Mr. Mickey and asked him if I could take off that week. I even volunteered to work off-site via the Internet if he wanted me. He said there was no need. He did joke that he'd have trouble living without me for a week and to take my laptop just in case.

I'd grown closer to Mr. Mickey since my initial job interview. He knew if something needed to be completed, I'd make it happen and I knew he was usually looking for someone to take over.

Next, I needed to figure whether to travel by car, plane or train. I checked prices on the Internet. A round trip plane ticket cost \$907 for each of us and we'd take about five hours. I estimated that driving the 1,200 miles to Whidbey would cost about \$900 assuming it cost 37.5 cents a mile and that it would take two nine-hour days of driving. Finally,

## Vacation planning list

Date	Who	What	Cost	Status	Comment
23-Jul	Jake	Leave from 8/7 to 8/15	\$0	In-work	Can't buy tickets until Jake confirms leave
23-Jul	Susie	Vacation for 8/10, 8/12	\$0	Done	
23-Jul	Susie	Train reservations	\$436	Done	See Notes
6-Aug	Susie	Food for trip	\$20		Cooler, lunch, dinner, snacks
6-Aug	Susie	Pack	\$0		
Week	Both	Family food	\$100		Help with family groceries
15-Aug	Susie	Food for trip	\$20		Cooler, lunch, dinner, snacks
15-Aug	Susie	Parking at train station	\$100		
Total			\$676		

## NOTES:

Train	Start	Stop	Date	Depart	Date	Arrive	Accommodations
763	San Diego	LA	7-Aug	6:12a.m.	7-Aug	8:50a.m.	Reserved coach
14	LA	Seattle	7-Aug	10:15a.m.	8-Aug	8:30p.m.	Sleeper car
11	Seattle	LA	15-Aug	10:00a.m.	15-Aug	9:00p.m.	Sleeper car
796	LA	San Diego	15-Aug	10:10p.m.	16-Aug	12:50a.m.	Reserved coach

Source: Ralph Nelson

Stars and Stripes



Ralph Nelson

ly, a train trip for both of us based on information I found at [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com) would cost us \$436 and would take two days — while staying in a sleeper car.

The train was the obvious choice. It was the least expensive and the sleeper car sounded both relaxing and romantic.

Everything was slowly starting to fall into place — just like when Mom did it — and that was a good feeling.

As soon as Jake confirmed he could take leave, I'd reserve our tickets on [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com). If we worked fast, we could get tickets to leave on Saturday morning and arrive Sunday evening. I'd also plan on my dad picking us up in Seattle and driving us to the beach.

Finally, we'd need snacks on the trip and need to pick up some of the cost for the family's food once we arrived.

The planning spreadsheet had

a rough vacation cost of \$676. That would be an expensive trip considering Jake and I barely made \$2,000 a month after taxes — and we weren't even paying for lodging. I wondered how expensive it was for Maggie to go on vacation with a child.

Jake and I talked about the trip when he got home that night. As for taking leave, Jake said his senior chief didn't see a problem with him taking it, but some extra paperwork would be waiting for him when he got back.

Then, we talked about the budget and where to get the \$676. We both agreed not to use the credit card since Jake's old senior chief recommended never using a credit card for consumables like eating out and vacations. It was too easy to forget about these types of expenses until the credit card bill came. We decided to pay for our train tickets out of our savings account immediately and take a cou-

ple hundred in cash during the trip and split it between the two of us for safety. Finally, we agreed to build our savings account back up quickly in the fall.

Over the next week, we finished the items on my vacation check list. When it came time to leave on Saturday morning, our stuff was all ready.

I couldn't wait to start the family beach week!

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — "The Savvy Sailor" and "The Savvy Naval Officer" — can be purchased by writing to: Master Plan Inc., 520 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 10071, Rockville, MD 20849 or online at [www.savvyonweb.com](http://www.savvyonweb.com). This article is written and the book is sold with the understanding that neither the author nor Stars and Stripes are professional financial advisers. If you need advice, please seek professional assistance. The author specifically disclaims any liability, loss or risk — personal or otherwise — incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of using or applying any of the information contained in this article or the book. E-mail for feedback is: [finance@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:finance@stripes.osd.mil)

# Planners: Money matters can muddle marriage

## Couple mixes financial, relationship advice

By SHERYL JEAN

St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press

Talk to financial planners Susan and Steve Zimmerman, and you'll get more than practical advice on how to invest your money. You also will get a strong dose of psychoanalysis.

In 20 years of working and living together, the Zimmermans have learned that to help people get their finances under control, they first must know what makes them tick.

The Zimmermans are among a small but growing number of financial planners who have figured out the intimate bond between money and relationships makes human nature hard to ignore when making financial decisions. Most people's money habits are deeply rooted in the way they were raised, they and others say, so it is no surprise money is one of the top reasons behind marital troubles.

Susan Zimmerman, who along with her credentials as a financial planner is a licensed family and marriage therapist, has identified eight personality traits called

"money rascals" to help figure out how people think about money. The terms include "flashers," who are spendthrifts, and "cashers," who are savers and debt dodgers.

The Zimmermans, who live in Apple Valley, Minn., use themselves as examples. She refers to herself as a "recovering" casher. Steve Zimmerman says he is a recovered stasher, who liked the thrill of high-risk investments and making a quick buck.

"The trick is to get them balanced and not have one dominate at any one time," said Susan Zimmerman, exchanging a knowing look with her husband. "It's simply helped us to know what deeper questions to ask — and to help put couples at ease. I was never OK with it just being about the numbers."

The Zimmermans think their background and experience give them insight in helping other couples — and helps differentiate them in a crowded field of financial planners. They are also among a few married financial planners across the country who counsel clients together.

SEE MONEY ON PAGE 27



KRT

Financial planners Susan and Steve Zimmerman, right, meet with Ken and Cindy Youngberg in Apple Valley, Minn. The Zimmermans believe there are eight financial personal types to help people figure out how they handle money.



## Sunday Horoscope

The Capricorn moon loves tradition. And during this very traditional time of year, honoring the rituals passed down through your family, culture and generation will bring a feeling of peace and unity. The simple act of sitting down to dinner together will be grounding, getting you psychologically ready to face the action-packed week ahead.

### TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(December 12):** You mine your potential in life, and destiny smiles on you! In February, be open to introductions. By March, an important issue concerning home or family will reach fruition. A spirit of alacrity is headed your way in April. Debts are cleared in June so you can justify that extravagant vacation! Love signs are Cancer and Libra. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 15, 28, 50 and 39.

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Let that genie out of the bottle. You've racked up a few new wishes and are ready to articulate them to someone who can actually do something about it! The future is bright, and it's right now.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You get the message loud and clear — and this important communication probably comes through a family member or close female friend. Take full advantage of the use and go to chase a big deal. Kisses are lucky.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21):** All those numbers you've been crunching lately finally add up to big bucks. You'll see a windfall before the year's out. If you need special permission to invest in yourself first, consider this horoscope your invitation.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Like the shape-shifting moon, you are always able to reinvent yourself. Others see you in a new and different light. Accept — with recognition with grace — what you earned it through years of hard work.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Something that was previously hidden is behind gray clouds now come to light. This crucial bit of information

helps you put all the puzzle pieces together. Take time to rethink your strategy before redoubling your efforts.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Being a team player pays off for you when a kindred spirit in your group becomes a champion of your pet project.

### Holiday Mathis

Mixing business with pleasure was never this much fun. Be willing to share the profits, though.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Your dream job is calling to you like a beacon in the fog. Tune in to your instincts, and you'll see the way clearly. You might feel duplicitous for even considering other employment, but not considering your options would be foolish.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Just because the spotlight isn't on you, that's no excuse to let someone else get all the glory. Book a trip, or take a class — you'll awaken your spirit, and you might even benefit financially.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You stand to benefit amazingly from other people's money. Those who are generous may include your spouse, your business partner, a family member or even the government. Be generous to those less fortunate.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your significant other or perhaps a close friend can sometimes express your hidden fears and desires better than you can. It's OK to let him or her see your vulnerable side. You are cherished.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

It's a good thing you like surprises because your schedule is about to get thrown for a loop. When folks get up, you're just as likely to be the anchor in the storm as the lightning rod.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You've never needed an excuse to party, but you'll get plenty anyway. An abundance of love, money and creative freedom are just around the corner. Fishes create their own festa everywhere they go, so pick a pond, and dive in.

Creators Syndicate

## 'Josh' origins only a theory

Our neighbor's name is Josh. He's appeared recently here the term to "josh" someone (meaning to tease or kid) came to be. We could find nothing to help him with his question. Can you? — J.V., Toms River, N.J.

Dear J.V.: Sorry to disappoint you and Josh, but the word "josh" is another one of those words of mysterious origin for which many unproven theories are bandied about.

The favorite theory of most commentators seems to be that "josh" was connected with the name "Josh Billings," which was the pseudonym of American humorist Henry W. Shaw. Shaw

began writing in 1838, however, and we know that an early form of the verb "josh" existed several years before that.

Another theory is that "josh" comes from an English dialect term, "joshin," meaning "bumping." But "josh" began life in connection with the word "joshing," so again the connection seems weak. Some theorists suggest that "josh" was once considered by certain people to be a homely or unrefined name. But, for now, at least, the mystery of "josh" remains unsolved.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 9th Edition. Please send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

## Tale of teen sex should be shared with girls' parents

**Dear Abby:** My 13-year-old daughter, "Dena," is in the same grade as her friend "Amanda."

Amanda has a sister, "Barb," who turned 15 last month. Amanda told my Dena that Barb's 16-year-old boyfriend has been sneaking in Barb's bedroom window several times a week for a while now, after their mother and stepfather have gone to bed. Amanda also confided that Barb told her that she and the boyfriend have had sex a couple of times, including before Barb turned 15.

I am not close to the mother and stepfather, although I do run into them at school functions. I wouldn't begin to know how to approach the parents and tell them what I know.

Should I be concerned with what's happening to other people's homes after they've gone to bed? Or should I keep this to myself and let them find out the hard way down the road?

**Dear Mother in Oklahoma:** Dear Mother: Do you others as you would have them do unto you. Call that girl's mother and tell her what you know and how you learned it. If you tell your daughter's friend confided is true, they need bars on the win-

dows and a chastity belt for Barb (and some serious counseling).

**Dear Abby:** I work in the mailroom of a large company.

Every day we deliver the mail that is sent to the people who work here. On some occasions, I deliver mail to people who have private offices. Sometimes, these people are having a meeting in their office and do not shut the door.

When this happens, should I just give them their mail, or wait until they are finished talking to that person? I'm asking because sometimes I get dirty looks from those people while I'm giving them their mail — like, "How dare you come into my office while someone is in here!"

Abby: I don't talk to them and I try to stay out of their way, because I know that someone walking in can be distracting. What is the correct mailroom etiquette?

**Dear Confused:** The universal signal for "Do Not Disturb" is a closed door. If the door is open, then you should be free to enter. However, since you are being given directions for making deliveries while there is a conversation in progress, the next time

the person is alone, ask what he or she would prefer under those circumstances. Another suggestion would be to stand quietly in the doorway for a few seconds and wait for the person to acknowledge you and motion you in.

**Dear Abby:** I have been married to "Kurt" for 13 years. It's a second marriage for both of us.

Kurt consistently fails to introduce me at social functions and leaves me to fend for myself. At the last party we attended, he left me to talk to the most attractive blond woman there — someone we had both just met. At the end of the evening, he hugged her and told her to call when she's back in town.

I told Kurt his behavior hurt my feelings, and if he respected me he wouldn't act this way. He says I'm out of line. What do you think?

— Socially Abandoned in Bend, Ore.

**Dear Socially Abandoned:** Your husband appears to suffer from social amnesia — he "forgets" he's married when the two of you go out. You are not out of line; he is.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Enclosures are sent to Abby on the internet at <http://www.usps.com/dearabby> or on the Internet at <http://www.usps.com/dearabby>.

## Woman's extended vacations may amount to animal abuse

**Dear Annie:** I have a friend, "Moira," who lives in a very small house. Moira isn't married and has no children, but she does have 12 cats.

Moira has taken anyone inside her house in the last 10 years. She says the house is too dirty. Her husband broke several years ago, and she won't let anyone in to fix it.

When Moira is bothering her cats, she goes on vacation, she leaves the cats in the house and won't let anyone in to check on them.

She says she leaves food and water out, but sometimes she is gone for two weeks at a time. This summer, Moira left the cats in the house for several weeks when the weather in our area was over 100 degrees.

Some of our friends say this is animal cruelty. Others say it's Moira's business and we should stay out of it. Tell me, Annie, what should I do?

**— Confused Cat in California**

**Dear Cat:** Leaving 12 cats cooped up inside an overheated house with no means of cooling off is animal abuse, and we worry about Moira's mental health.

You can report the situation anonymously to the local Humane Society, but if you are unwilling to do that, perhaps her

friends could offer to pay for a cleaning service. Also, please talk to Moira. She might benefit from some professional help.

**Dear Annie:** I am a 48-year-old single mom. I had not years a serious relationship for years until I met "Candy."

It is truly the man of my dreams. He's 49, handsome, educated and successful, and we have a lot in common.

The problem is, Gilbert lives 200 miles away. He and I decided that before we fell too deeply into love, we should break it off unless we could manage to live closer. He said he doesn't want to say goodnight to me on the phone. He wants me with him, and it's just too painful to be apart.

I have never been so in love with anyone, and I am certain Gilbert is the man I want to be with for the rest of my life. I would pack up and move near him, but I have a 15-year-old who doesn't want to leave school and her friends. I really need some good advice.

**— Lost Love Love**

**Dear Lost:** It's too bad Gilbert lives so far away and is undesirable. Your daughter will be going off to college in a few short years. It is possible for you to

convince Gilbert to maintain a not-so-long-distance relationship with them! Surely, if both of you are sufficiently motivated, you could find a way to see each other every month and, along with phone calls and e-mail, it might be enough.

**Dear Annie:** You were correct in referring the person from Salina, Kan., who admitted having a gambling problem, to Gamblers Anonymous.

However, I am concerned about the writer's revelation that he's thought about suicide. Compulsive gamblers often feel guilty, depressed, ashamed and even suicidal. Sadly, if you frequently come to believe that suicide is the only way out of their situation.

Please inform your readers about the National Compulsive Gambling Hotline (1-800-522-4700) and the National Helpline for Gambling Crisis Line (1-800-784-2433).

**— Deanna Dayle, Mental Health Association of North Dakota**

**Dear Deanna Dayle:** We appreciate the way our readers look out for one another. Bless you for caring.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Amy Sparg, longtime editors of the *Los Angeles Times*. Please e-mail your questions to [annie@mailboxcomcast.net](mailto:annie@mailboxcomcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

### Annie's Mailbox



Dear Annie: I have a friend, "Moira," who lives in a very small house. Moira isn't married and has no children, but she does have 12 cats.

Moira has taken anyone inside her house in the last 10 years. She says the house is too dirty. Her husband broke several years ago, and she won't let anyone in to fix it.

When Moira is bothering her cats, she goes on vacation, she leaves the cats in the house and won't let anyone in to check on them.

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## RELIGION

# 'Warrior monk' fulfills his calling in Iraq

BY JACKIE SPINNER

The Washington Post

**HASWAH, Iraq** — His flask jacket was covered in dried blood, his blood. Look at the stains, Marine Lance Cpl. June N. Ramos said, pointing. There were dark red smears all over the front of his camouflage vest.

Ramos reached into the pocket of the flask jacket and pulled out a small silver tin wrapped in a plastic bag. He opened the container, which held a half-dozen Communion wafers.

"Instead of putting a grenade in here," Ramos said, fastening the pocket of his vest, "I put the body of Christ."

They call him the "warrior monk." Ramos, 32, was studying to be a Benedictine monk when he joined the Marines in 2003. He wants to be a chaplain, but first, he said, he must live the life of a Marine grunt.

So this is where he was on a crisp morning in Iraq, guarding a police station in this city 25 miles south of the capital, barbed wire surrounding the complex where he had slept fitfully in the cold air.

"I'm a Filipino citizen, serving in the United States Marines, fighting for the United States," he said, his body upright and at attention while he talked.

Ramos had just returned to duty after being hit by shrapnel from an improvised bomb in October. It was not the first time he had been hurt.

He picked up his helmet, which had a small wooden cross hanging from it, and showed the chin strap that probably saved his life. The strap was torn, shredded by the metal that had hit it before going into Ramos's neck. Metal lodged in a sinus cavity.



WASHINGTON POST/LATWP

**Marine Lance Cpl. June N. Ramos, 32, displays the Communion wafers he carries. He has escaped serious injury more than once during his tour in Iraq.**

ty and his gums — but it had been slowed enough that he survived. He remembered the experience clearly — the explosion and then the pain.

When a Marine dies in combat, they say he's bought the farm. Ramos did not buy the farm, just a ride home. But when he was in the field hospital in Baghdad, Ramos said, he knew he had to return to the field. He had work to do. He is the man who administers Communion to Roman Catholic Marines on the front, and his job was not done yet.

"This is my calling, the reason why I am

here," said Ramos, a slight man with an imish grin. He was bundled up for the cold, his green, Marine-issued scarf pulled tight over his head to cover his ears. He also wore a black stocking cap, like those worn by the rest of his platoon buddies in 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

He keeps surviving, Ramos said. He has been in mortar attacks, mine explosions, the roadside bomb attack that cut his neck. In any other place, he might feel invisible, but Ramos knows that danger does not start and stop. He has not yet made it out.

"God is always with me," Ramos said. "He's always there watching."

He was walking through a field a few months ago when a mine exploded. The sound was so loud that he thought for sure he'd been hit. He was covered in dust, feeling for his legs, when he realized he was walking. He was intact.

A few weeks later, he was in a concrete bunker that fellow Marines were reinforcing with sandbags. It collapsed on him, pinning him on his side. "I was so very lucky," Ramos said. He escaped with only a large bruise on his rib cage.

Before he became a Marine, Ramos was studying at a monastery in Abiquiu, N.M., an isolated spot on a dirt road near the Chama River. After he serves his four-year tour in the Marines, Ramos said, he intends to return to his theological studies and become a monk.

His fellow Marines respect the life he has chosen, he said. "They totally understand. We are in war, but still God is watching over us."

The hospital in Baghdad where Ramos recovered from the bomb blast in October had a special hallway reserved for insurgents who had been wounded and were being patched up by military doctors. Ramos said he was angry, hurt, in pain, but he decided to walk down that hallway.

"God told me not to be angry," Ramos said. "I pretty much quoted what Jesus said on the cross. I prayed that they would know the real presence of God, that God would guard them and protect them."

He came back to his unit about two weeks ago, a man who had forgiven and was ready to fight again, Ramos said. He would not dream of being anywhere else.

"I trust in God and keep the faith," Ramos said. "If I can live with me, who can be against me, right? Be not afraid, that's what I say."



**The Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud, left, hugs her partner, Chris Paige, in Pughtown, Pa., on Dec. 2. Stroud, a lesbian minister in the United Methodist Church, was found guilty of violating a church ban on active gay clergy and defrocked. A 13-member jury made up of Methodist clergy convicted Stroud on the second day of her church trial.**

## Tension remains despite recent defrocking of gay Methodist pastor

BY RICHARD N. OSTLING

The Associated Press

**PUGHTOWN, Pa.** — The recent defrocking of a United Methodist Church pastor who broke church law by living openly with her lesbian partner was a victory for the denomination's conservative wing. But more broadly, did it signify a decisive turn for the denomination? Conservatives hope so. The church-trial verdict shows "we will not surrender to the popular culture on matters of sexual ethics."

That's the contention of Mark Tooley, the Methodist specialist at the conservative Institute on Religion and Democracy.

Liberals, however, saw the result against the Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud of Philadelphia as a case of the UMC "shamefully" caving in to "cultural prejudice" against gays and lesbians.

Those are the words of the Reconciling Ministries Network, an alliance of 192 congregations and other Methodist groups that favors "full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities." The network branded Stroud's ouster as sin and blasphemy.

American society's ongoing culture war over gay relationships undoubtedly affects churches, but the Stroud case was shaped more by internal Methodist dynamics.

With \$3 billion members, 35,000 congregations and \$5 billion in annual proceeds, the UMC is the monolith of mainline Protestantism.

On most matters, both theological and temporal, it follows mainliners' left-of-center views — but on the gay clergy issue, forces that back traditional Christian teaching against gay sex have been winning.

Among other mainline groups, the United Church

of Christ and Episcopal Church are more welcoming of openly gay, partnered clergy, though a minority of Episcopalians fiercely disagree with that stance, with backing from fellow Anglicans overseas. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is sharply divided over its gay ban, which covers both clergy and lay officers, and awaits a crucial report late next year and a 2006 showdown.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America could also erupt, depending on recommendations that a panel is polishing this weekend for release Jan. 13 and action at a convention next August.

The UMC's struggle originated at the 1972 legislative General Conference, where an official committee to re-examine overall social policy proposed language of acceptance toward gays and lesbians. But delegates inserted a phrase specifying that same-sex practices are "incompatible with Christian teaching."

The 1984 Methodist conference followed up with the law Stroud violated, forbidding "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" in the ministry.

National UMC rules are applied by regional clergy juries. The one in eastern Pennsylvania readily agreed that Stroud broke the law, but the vote of 7-6 on the penalty of defrocking was the minimum necessary. It's anguishing for clerics to stop fellow ministers, and with Stroud — who will retain many of her duties with her supervising congregation — even the prosecution praised her pastoral devotion.

Stroud is undecided if she will appeal and will announce her plans after Christmas. An appeal might seem automatic but she wonders, "If I were to win on an appeal, is it healthy for the church for a decision to be made judicially that as many as two-thirds of Methodists may disagree with?"









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## SCOREBOARD

## AFN Sports &amp; Radio

## Sunday

**AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.** — Rodon: National Finals (dtd).  
**AFN-Radio, 1 p.m.** — Golf: Target world championship, third round. (dtd).  
**AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.** — College basketball: Penn State vs. UCLA (dtd).  
**AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.** — Boxing: Antonio Tarver vs. 127 lbs. John Johnson (4:32, 39 KO) for WBC and WBA light heavyweight championship (dtd).  
**AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.** — NFL: Cincinnati at New England.

**AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.** — NFL: Oakland at Atlanta.

**AFN-Pacific, 7 p.m.** — NFL: Seattle at Minnesota.

**AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.** — NFL: Chicago at Jacksonville.

**AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.** — NFL: NY Jets at Pittsburgh.

**AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.** — NFL: St. Louis at Carolina.

**AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.** — NFL: Tampa Bay at San Diego.

**AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.** — NFL: Detroit in Green Bay.

## Monday

**AFN-Sports and AFN-Radio, 2:30 a.m.** — NFL: Philadelphia at Washington.

**AFN-Radio, 5:30 a.m.** — Golf: Target world championship, final round (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.** — College basketball: Toledo at Duke (dtd).

All times Central European time; dtd indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit [www.afnradio.com](http://www.afnradio.com).

## Pro football

## NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	
New England	9	6	.600	286	216	
Pittsburgh	11	0	.917	280	244	
Buffalo	6	0	.500	269	282	
Miami	5	0	.333	254	294	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
South	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	
Indianapolis	9	0	.750	421	293	
Atlanta	7	0	.583	288	225	
Houston	5	0	.417	236	269	
Tennessee	4	0	.333	224	284	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
North	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	
Pittsburgh	10	0	.917	273	244	
Baltimore	7	0	.583	293	231	
Cincinnati	6	0	.500	266	272	
San Diego	5	0	.417	238	268	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
West	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	
Denver	7	0	.583	274	212	
Seattle	6	0	.500	248	238	
Oakland	4	0	.333	234	238	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
South	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	
x-Philadelphia	9	0	.750	232	242	
N.Y. Giants	5	0	.417	209	239	
Dallas	4	0	.333	203	238	
Washington	3	0	.250	169	201	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
North	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	
Atlanta	9	0	.750	232	242	
Carolina	5	0	.417	249	257	
San Francisco	4	0	.333	203	238	
New Orleans	4	0	.333	243	257	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
West	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	
Green Bay	7	0	.583	218	239	
Minnesota	5	0	.417	236	286	
Chicago	5	0	.417	218	269	
Chicago	5	0	.417	218	269	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
South	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	
St. Louis	6	0	.500	253	265	
Washington	5	0	.417	238	268	
Arizona	4	0	.333	192	233	
San Francisco	1	0	.083	136	233	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
North	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	
Oakland at Atlanta						
New Orleans at Dallas						
Indianapolis at Houston						
Chicago at Jacksonville						
Atlanta at New England						
Seattle at Pittsburgh						
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Philadelphia at Washington						

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
West	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	
Houston at Atlanta						
Minnesota at Detroit						
Seattle at NY Jets						
San Francisco at Cincinnati						
Philadelphia at Philadelphia						
San Diego at Cleveland						
St. Louis at Arizona						
San Francisco at Tampa Bay						
Jacksonville at Green Bay						
Tennessee at Oakland						
Baltimore at Baltimore						

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
South	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	
New England at Miami						

## College football

## Division I-AA playoffs

**Seminals**  
**Friday, Dec. 10**  
 James Madison (11-2) vs. Middle Tennessee (11-2) at Stony Brook, N.Y.  
**Saturday, Dec. 11**  
 Saint Joseph's (11-2) vs. Penn State (11-2) at Harrisburg, Pa.

**Championship**  
**Saturday, Dec. 11**  
 James Madison (11-2) vs. Penn State (11-2) at Harrisburg, Pa.

**Division II playoffs**  
**Seminals**  
**Saturday, Dec. 10**  
 Valdosta State (11-2) vs. North Dakota (11-2) at Bismarck, N.D.

**Championship**  
**Saturday, Dec. 11**  
 Valdosta State (11-2) vs. North Dakota (11-2) at Bismarck, N.D.

**Division III playoffs**  
**Seminals**  
**Saturday, Dec. 11**  
 Middlebury College (11-2) vs. Williams College (11-2) at Williamstown, Mass.

**Championship**  
**Saturday, Dec. 11**  
 Middlebury College (11-2) vs. Williams College (11-2) at Williamstown, Mass.

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## AFN Sports &amp; Radio

## Sunday

**AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.** — Rodon: National Finals (dtd).  
**AFN-Radio, 1 p.m.** — Golf: Target world championship, third round. (dtd).  
**AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.** — College basketball: Penn State vs. UCLA (dtd).  
**AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.** — Boxing: Antonio Tarver vs. 127 lbs. John Johnson (4:32, 39 KO) for WBC and WBA light heavyweight championship (dtd).  
**AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.** — NFL: Cincinnati at New England.

**AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.** — NFL: Oakland at Atlanta.

**AFN-Pacific, 7 p.m.** — NFL: Seattle at Minnesota.

**AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.** — NFL: Chicago at Jacksonville.

**AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.** — NFL: NY Jets at Pittsburgh.

**AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.** — NFL: St. Louis at Carolina.

**AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.** — NFL: Tampa Bay at San Diego.

**AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.** — NFL: Detroit in Green Bay.

**AFN-Sports and AFN-Radio, 2:30 a.m.** — NFL: Philadelphia at Washington.

**AFN-Radio, 5:30 a.m.** — Golf: Target world championship, final round (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.** — College basketball: Toledo at Duke (dtd).

All times Central European time; dtd indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit [www.afnradio.com](http://www.afnradio.com).

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**AFN-Radio, 5:30 a.m.** — Golf: Target world championship, final

# 'SC sophomore Bush steps out of shadows

## Low-profile, big-play back joins QB Leinart as Heisman finalist

BY JOHN NADEL  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In some ways, Reggie Bush is the most unlikely Heisman Trophy finalist. He doesn't start for No. 1 Southern California, and ranks second on the team in rushing and receiving.

He's a sophomore, and the previous winners have all been juniors or seniors.

Finally, he's often been overshadowed by teammate Matt Leinart, also a finalist for the award. They'll be joined at Saturday night's ceremony in New York by Oklahoma's Adrian Peterson and Jason White and Utah quarterback Alex Smith. Bush's former high school teammate from near San Diego.

All that being said, Bush doesn't think of himself as a long shot.

"I envision myself winning the Heisman Trophy," he said. "We'll see. You don't want to be selfish, but at the same time you do because it's one of the greatest awards a college athlete can get."

He's right down the street from Hollywood. Anything can happen in Hollywood. Obviously, I'd love to win. All year it's been in my mind frame, but it's out of my control."

Bush's résumé is packed with big plays.

He caught three touchdown passes from Leinart in a season-opening 24-14 victory over Sugar Bowl-bound Virginia Tech.

He returned punts for touchdowns at Washington State and Oregon State.

And he finished the season with a breathtaking performance against UCLA, rushing for a career-high 204 yards on 15 carries and scoring on runs of 65 and 81 yards.

To find out who won the Heisman Trophy on Saturday night, visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

"I guess I kind of shot up the voting polls," Bush said.

Bush, a 6-foot, 200-pounder, ranks fifth in the country in all-purpose yards, averaging 151.8 per game. He did so despite the fact that opposing teams did everything they could to kick the ball away from him and track his every move from scrimmage.

He rushed for 833 yards on 137 carries and six touchdowns; caught 41 passes for 478 yards and seven TDs; returned 23 punts for 369 yards and two scores, and returned 19 kickoffs for 501 yards.

His rushing numbers pale in comparison to Peterson, the other tailback among the finalists who has 1,843 yards.

Bush is about more than just numbers. He's a game-breaker.

"He's the most spectacular player I've ever seen in college football," Trojans tight end Alex Holmes said. "Teams gun for him, they change their whole defense. Every time he touches the ball, he has a chance to score. You can't say that about too many people."

Soft-spoken and studious off the field, Bush is much different when he's playing.

"On the field, I'm probably the exact opposite of that," he said. "I love all the attention. At the same time, I keep myself humble."

"Split personality, on and off the field."

The 19-year-old should be good at self-analysis, considering he's a psychology major on track to graduate in 3½ years.



Southern Cal sophomore Reggie Bush is fifth in the country with 151.8 all-purpose yards a game.

"A totally different person comes out on the field," he said.

"Sometimes a good attitude, sometimes a bad attitude. Football brings out a whole different person in me."

Like last weekend against UCLA. At the end of his first long touchdown run, he somersaulted into the end zone and received an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

"It wasn't anything I'd thought about before," he said. "It was just instinctive. I just did it. I wasn't trying to show off. It just happened."

The Trojans' wealth of talent limits Bush's opportunities. He averaged less than 11½ carries per game, compared to nearly 16 for teammate LenDale White, and fewer than 3½ receptions.

"I guess it's just the nature of the beast," Bush said.

"There's only one ball to go around. It can be frustrating. But we're winning. I think that just makes us that more dangerous, that we have other athletes and can spread the ball around."

He does make the most of those limited chances, averaging just under 10 yards per touch. Bush even threw a 52-yard TD pass against Arizona State.

"It's tough because of the situation we have here — he can only get the ball so much," Leinart said. "I think he will be a Heisman Trophy winner before he's here. He deserves it."

"He's the best player in college."

# Longhorns linebacker Johnson wins Butkus

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Texas linebacker Derrick Johnson won the Butkus Award on Friday night as the nation's best linebacker.

Johnson is the first Texas player to win the award, beating out Ahmad Brooks of Virginia and Matt Groetegode of Southern California.

Johnson, who was a Butkus finalist last year as a junior, led the Longhorns this season with 128 tackles, 78 solo and 19 for loss. He also added two sacks, one interception and eight forced fumbles for No. 6 Texas, which faces No. 13 Michigan in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day.

Johnson has already been named the winner of the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, awarded to the nation's best defensive player. He was also a finalist for the Lombardi Award, given to the top college lineman. Georgia's David Pollack won the Lombardi.

Named for NFL Hall of Fame linebacker Dick Butkus, the award is presented by the Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando.

## Stanford interviews Pittsburgh coach Harris

STANFORD, Calif. — Pittsburgh coach Walt Harris interviewed at Stanford on Friday for the school's coaching vacancy.

Stanford officials said Harris was on campus to meet with athletic director Ted Leland, who hired Harris as football coach at Pacific in 1989 when Leland was the AD there. Harris met with Leland two days after Southern California offensive coordinator Norm Chow visited to interview for the job.

Now that Leland has interviewed his top two candidates, a decision on Buddy Teevens' successor could come soon — perhaps by the end of the weekend. Teevens was fired Nov. 28 after three straight losing seasons.

Leland is looking for a coach with a strong offensive back-

## College football briefs

ground after Stanford struggled to score during Teevens' tenure.

The Cardinal went 4-7 the last two seasons, losing their past five games this year. They were 0-13 down the stretch the past three seasons.

## Notre Dame assistant accepts coordinator position at Florida

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame defensive line coach Greg Mattison is leaving to join new Florida coach Urban Meyer, the man the Fighting Irish tried to hire last year to replace the fired Tyrone Willingham.

Mattison was hired Friday as the Gators co-defensive coordinator, and will be reunited with Meyer. The two were Notre Dame assistants under Bob Davie until 2001. Mattison will share the coordinator's job with Charlie Strong, who also worked at Notre Dame.

## Colorado Mines QB Friehauf wins Harlon Hill Trophy

FLORENCE, Ala. — Colorado School of Mines quarterback Chad Friehauf won the Harlon Hill Trophy as the Division I college football player of the year on Friday night.

Friehauf, a senior from Brush, Colo., threw for 4,646 yards and 39 touchdowns in leading the Miners to their first ever playoff win and a 12-1 record. The Miners went 11-0 in the regular season.

The Harlon Hill winner is chosen by sports information directors, and the trophy is named for the star receiver who played for North Alabama from 1950-53.

Friehauf leads Division II in total offense with 412.5 yards per game, and is second in passing efficiency with a 170.7 rating. He had a streak of 180 consecutive passes this season without an interception and completed 384 of 516 passes. His total yards are game and his 5,363 total yards are division records.

# Third road victory puts James Madison in I-AA final

BY HANK KURZ JR.  
The Associated Press

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Justin Rascati wasn't the most heralded quarterback in his NCAA Division I-AA semifinal against William & Mary, but he was pretty darned good, and his supporting cast was superb.

Rascati threw for three touchdowns and James Madison converted four turnovers into touchdowns Friday night, beating the Tribe 48-34.

"Our line did a great job and our receivers caught everything," Rascati said after leading a turnover-free offense that made a heap of big plays. "We could throw, we could run, do whatever it takes to win."

The Dukes (12-2) avenged a last-play loss to the Tribe in the regular season and moved on to next weekend's national championship against San Houston State or Montana, who will play Saturday, in Chattanooga, Tenn.

James Madison, which won 14-13 at Le-

high in the first round and 14-13 at Furman to get to the semifinals, also became the first team in I-AA to make it to the championship game by winning three times on the road.

And they did it by turning back the comeback kids.

"This is pretty much everything I can ask for my senior year," Dukes cornerback Cortez Thompson said.

William & Mary (11-3), which rallied from a 31-10 deficit to beat defending national champion Delaware in double overtime last weekend, fell behind 21-0, rode the passing of Landon Campbell to a 26-20 quarter lead, then fell behind again and killed their chances with two turnovers.

Each time, the Dukes drove for scores, mixing the running of Maurice Fenner with Rascati's passing to eat clock time and prevent Campbell and the Tribe from another miracle comeback before a sellout crowd of 12,259.

Fenner carried 22 times for 117 yards, all but six in the second half. He broke off a 29-yard run on the first play after William & Mary took its first lead, and Rascati hit D.D. Boxley for a 34-yard touchdown on the next play, Boxley making a dazzling diving fingertip grab.

"When I got in, I just wanted to make something happen," Fenner said.

Rascati, who transferred to the school in Harrisonburg for this season, finished 11-for-14 for 143 yards. He also hit Casimere Harris for a 19-yard touchdown and Antoine Bolton for 13 to make it 41-26.

Coach preached all week that the team that turned the big over the least was going to win," Rascati said. "That's what we did."

Trailing 27-26, William & Mary had just made a first down when Jon Smith fumbled at his 45 and Eric Brown recovered for the Dukes. They took 11 plays to drive 48 yards to Chris Iorio's 4-yard touchdown run.

On the Tribe's next play, Brandon Beach hit Campbell from behind, forcing another fumble, and Demetrius Shambley recovered for James Madison at the Tribe 18. Three plays later, Rascati hit Bolton to clinch it.

"When you make that many mistakes and give them the ball as much as we did, it doesn't help," Campbell said. He also threw an interception that was returned 69 yards for a touchdown by Clint Kent, then hit on 17 consecutive passes and finished 30-for-39 for 315 yards with three TDs.

"It's been a dream season," he said.

The game brought an end to what seemed a magical 25th anniversary celebration for William & Mary coach Jimmy Laycock, who played for the Tribe under Marv Levy and Lou Holtz and is the school's victory leader.

Obviously, it was disappointing when you finish with a loss, and a tough one like that," he said. But "this loss takes nothing away."





# Haywood makes up for late misses vs. Knicks

By JOSEPH WHITE  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With 55 seconds remaining, Brendan Haywood missed two free throws that would have put the Washington Wizards in the lead. The second one was an ugly short-arm that had no chance of going in. "I was mad," teammate Gilbert Arenas said. "But I couldn't stop him I was mad."

Haywood turned mad to glad in a hurry. He grabbed a rebound and converted a three-point play with 7.1 seconds remaining Friday night, giving Washington a 106-104 victory over the New York Knicks.

"A big play," Arenas said. "I told him I was going to give him \$10,000 in gift certificates." "Knowing Gilbert," responded Haywood, the team's runaway miser, "he'll give me \$10,000 in gift certificates to Victoria's Secret. That's the type of guy he is."

Haywood's heroics came on his team's 27th offensive rebound, tied for the most in an NBA game this season. Antawn Jamison had 25 points and 13 rebounds for the Wizards, who have won five of six.

Arenas had 20 points and seven assists. All three Washington starters reached double figures early in the third quarter during an entertaining game of fast breaks, dunks and flashy moves.

Haywood finished with 17 points and 14 re-

bounds, but nearly pulled another fourth-quarter disappearing act. He was scoreless in the second half before his game-winning three-point play.

"Missing those free throws really hurt. ... You have to keep your mind clear, because you never know how it's going to come back," Haywood said. "Tonight it just came back on me, and I was able to make the play. I've been saying it for a whole year: I want to play in the fourth, so I might as well do something when I'm in there."

The Knicks were more upset over another play by Haywood. The Wizards center blocked Stephen Marbury's short jumper as the ball was on the way down with 41 seconds left. The official ruled that the ball was going to fall short of the rim, so no goaltending was called.

"Yeah, he did goaldent it," Marbury said. "The ball was up in the air going down. They didn't call it. There's nothing you can do about it. It's not like we're playing CYO and you can protest the game. You've just got to live with it."

After Haywood's three-point play, New York had two final chances to tie, but Nazr Mohammed missed a tough shot in traffic and Kurt Thomas failed to put in the rebound as time expired.

"I got a good look at it and missed the shot," Mohammed said. "Besides an open layup, you



Washington Wizards' Brendan Haywood (33) tries to stop New York Knicks' Stephen Marbury (3) during the first quarter on Friday.

can't ask for a better shot. I got a wide open shot within a foot in the paint."

Mohammed finished with 20 points and 11 rebounds. Marbury had 18 points and seven assists. The Knicks have lost four of five and has fallen below .500, although they remain in first place in the Atlantic Division.

"They had 27 offensive rebounds, that's sickening," Mohammed said. "As far as being the big man on this team, I hate when we give up one offensive rebound."

Allan Houston, playing his first game of the season after recovering from a knee injury, scored eight points in 19 minutes.

# Raptors put Carter on injured list

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Vince Carter of the Toronto Raptors was placed on the injured list with a strained left Achilles' tendon Friday and will miss at least five games.

Carter was hurt in the first minute of the second half in having it treated. The 90-86 overtime loss at Detroit Wednesday.

"It's just something that's been bothering me for three years," Carter said. "I want to let it settle down and get better instead of having it treated."

Carter was driving along the baseline Wednesday, before pulling in and then falling to the floor. He was taken to the locker room and didn't return, then limped to the team bus after the game.

A prolonged injury could hurt the Raptors' chances of trading the five-time All-Star Carter. Has asked to be dealt, and the Raptors have held trade discussions with a number of teams in recent weeks.

## Robinson might miss season

CHICAGO — Glenn Robinson may sit out the entire season because of an ankle injury, Philadelphia 76ers coach Jim O'Brien said Friday.

Robinson, earning more than \$12 million in the final year of his contract, has been on the injured list all season with left ankle tendinitis and a sore elbow.

"I don't anticipate seeing him at all," O'Brien said. "He said he is incapable of playing. My understanding is that his ankles are incapable of carrying him on the court."

Earlier this season, Robinson was upset that Philadelphia didn't trade him. He averaged 16.6 points in his first season in Philadelphia last year — down from his career average of 20.8.

## Wizards coach: 'Immaturity' led to Brown's suspension

WASHINGTON — Kwame Brown's boycott of a team huddle during the game was an example of immaturity that will not be tolerated, according to Washington Wizards coach Eddie Jordan.

Jordan on Friday discussed his decision to suspend Brown for the evening's game against the New York Knicks. The suspension was announced on Tuesday, one day after Brown walked away from a huddle during a home loss to Denver.

"It was detrimental to the team's success," Jordan said. "We've had some success. We've had a lot of maturity from the time of the end of the last season through the summer to present, and now, we're not tolerating immaturity. We're not tolerating any type of poor conduct or behavior. We'll all on the same page."

# Kidd spoils Scott's return to New Jersey

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — With the game on the line, Jason Kidd didn't hesitate to push his surgically-repaired knee to the limit.

Kidd hit a go-ahead basket early in overtime, and the Nets defeated former coach Byron Scott's win in his return to New Jersey with a 94-91 victory over the New Orleans Hornets on Friday night.

"Coach asked me and I told him I wanted to continue to keep playing," Kidd said after contributing eight points and eight assists in a season-high 28 minutes. "I felt great. We'll see how I feel tomorrow."

Nets coach Lawrence Frank struggled with letting Kidd continue the extra five minutes in only his third game since returning from knee surgery in July.

"I went to our coaches and said: 'I think I have to take him out,'" Frank said. "I looked at him and I went with it. I just pray he's OK."

Kidd had a basket, an assist and two rebounds in overtime. His biggest play came with 3:26 to go when he backed David Wesley down and hit a 10-footer for a 90-88 lead.

As the teams walked off the floor, Scott pointed to Frank in acknowledgment. Kidd had ac-



Roundup

knowledgeed Scott with a point before the game.

"He just wanted you guys to know there is no rift," said Scott, who was fired in January amid rumors that he and Kidd were at odds. "Anything you guys are trying to make out to be, it's not. It's. We've never had a problem and I don't know how many times I have to say that."

**Nuggets 101, Raptors 87:** At Toronto, Carmelo Anthony had 28 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, and Nene had a season-high 21 points.

Kenyon Martin added 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Nuggets, who have won four straight.

**Heat 92, Grizzlies 84:** At Miami, Dwyane Wade narrowly missed a triple-double and Shaquille O'Neal scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter.

O'Neal made four of five shot attempts and added two assists in the final 12 minutes, a stark difference from the middle two quarters when the Grizzlies held him scoreless and he missed the only three shots he tried.

Wade had 26 points, nine as-

sists and nine rebounds — coming up just short in a bid for what would have been the first triple-double in Heat history and the just second in the last 10 seasons. He and O'Neal combined for 19 of Miami's 23 fourth-quarter points.

**Hawks 88, Pistons 72:** Rookie Josh Smith replaced Kenny Anderson at point guard and had career highs of 12 points and four blocks in his first NBA start.

The visiting Hawks, who led by as many as 29, won for just the second time in 12 games and held Detroit to a franchise record for fewest points in a home game.

**Timberwolves 113, Kings 105:** Kevin Garnett scored a season-high 35 points with 18 rebounds and nine assists.

Playing before their largest home crowd of the season, the Wolves trailed for most of the first three quarters before using a 19-3 burst in the fourth to turn a four-point deficit into a 109-98 lead with 2:57 remaining.

**76ers 93, Bulls 88:** Allen Iverson had 23 points and 10 assists, and Samuel Dalembert had 13 points, 14 rebounds and six blocked shots in his first start of the season for the 76ers, who ended an eight-game road losing streak despite scoring just two points in the final 4:46.

**Bucks 95, Pacers 86:** At Milwaukee, Michael Redd scored 21 points and Mike James added 16 to hand the Pacers their sixth straight loss.

The victory, Milwaukee's second over Indiana in four days, helped the Bucks (6-11) avoid their worst starting record in a decade, a 5-12 mark to begin the 1994-95 season.

**Magic 113, Warriors 109:** At Oakland, Calif., Steve Francis scored a season-high 36 points and also finished with eight rebounds and eight assists in Orlando's fifth win in six games.

Francis shot 11-for-26 and made all 14 of his free throws, carrying the load as Grant Hill sat out with a badly bruised right shin.

**Jazz 92, Trail Blazers 87:** Matt Harper scored 17 points, including six in overtime, as host Utah snapped a six-game losing skid and avoided its first seven-game skid since 1981-82.

Attempting to tie the game in the final minute of overtime, Zach Randolph missed in the lane and Mehmet Okur stripped Shaef Abdur-Rahim after he grabbed the offensive rebound. Carlos Arroyo made one free throw and Harper hit two to clinch the win in the last 18 seconds.

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# Oklahoma State makes another defense pay

The Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. — Undefeated Oklahoma State found a way to beat yet another defensive strategy.

In less than a week, the Cowboys (7-0) fended off deliberate Washington State, muscled through Syracuse's 2-3 zone and finished off the defensive assortment against UAB's full-court pressure in an 86-73 victory Friday night.

"With every style of play, we learn something about ourselves," said Cowboys guard Daniel Bobik, who scored 14 points. "I don't think that we are really going to see UAB's style of defense too much, but if we do, we are ready for it."

The Blazers (4-1) used pressure to force fifth-ranked Oklahoma State into quick and often ill-advised shots, but when the Cowboys were patient, they were on target — finishing at 52 percent from the field.

Joey Graham led Oklahoma State with 20 points and John Lucas III had 18 points and eight assists. Lucas spurred a 14-0 run early in the second half with a three-point shot and added another three-point and a three-point play in the surge to help the Cowboys build a six-point lead into a 60-40 advantage with 15 minutes to play.

"I love a physical game," said Lucas, who was slammed to the floor after a layup attempt and rammed his head into the basket support after another "I like it when you get banged up and beat up a little bit."

"We played tough and I think that we



UAB's Marvett McDonald is pressured by Oklahoma State's Ivan McFarlin (left) and James On Curry during Friday night's game. No. 5 Oklahoma State beat UAB 86-73.

played hard. Most teams when they get banged up, they don't want to go back inside, but we are going to keep going inside and get to the free-throw line."

The Cowboys made 25 of 30 free throws, but UAB was able to get to the line, too.

After Oklahoma State's run, the Blazers came back with eight straight points — 2 from the line — as they pushed a fast pace

on offense, too. But they also missed four free throws in the same two-minute span and it kept them from closing the gap.

"I think that our guys came in and gave everything they had," UAB coach Mike Anderson said. "Oklahoma State did what they were supposed to do and they came out on top."

Ivan McFarlin had 10 points and 12 re-

bounds for the Cowboys and James On Curry and Stephen Graham had 10 each.

Donell Taylor led UAB with 17 points and Marques Lewis and Richard Jones added 11 points each.

The Blazers closed to 69-58 when Terrence Crawford was called for goading on Jones' layup, but the Cowboys responded with eight straight points — including six in a row by Graham — to regain a comfortable lead.

Oklahoma State associate head coach Sean Sutton was looking for Graham to improve in other areas besides scoring.

"Joey Graham's got to go to the glass," Sutton said. "It's ridiculous for a guy as athletic as he is and as strong as he is in a wide-open game like tonight to have zero offensive rebounds."

Graham had seven rebounds — all on the defensive end — and both teams finished with 37 rebounds.

**No. 17 Iowa 70, Iowa St. 63:** At Iowa City, Iowa, Adam Haluska scored 20 points against his former team and Pierre Pierce added 15 points for the Hawkeyes (8-1).

Haluska had a 19-point second half. Iowa State (4-2) closed to 61-60 on Jared Homan's two free throws with 2:06 left. But Iowa's Greg Brunner hit a shot down low and the Hawkeyes made enough free throws to tie the final minute to hold on.

Haluska, who started as a freshman at Iowa State in 2002-03, scored 10 points in the first 9½ minutes and finished 7-for-13 from the field, including 4-for-8 on three-pointers. Homan had a career-high 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds.

## Bettman, NHL owners mull players' cutback offer

BY IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

TORONTO — The NHL players' union insists its proposed salary rollback will dramatically change the league's economics.

Whether that's enough to persuade NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman to sign off on a deal and end the three-month lockout remains to be seen.

After a proposal by the players' association on Thursday that showcased a one-time 24 percent rollback on salaries, Bettman and the owners must decide if that in cooperation with a luxury tax, revenue sharing, a lower cap on entry-level contracts and changes in the arbitration system are enough givebacks to make a deal.

The new proposal didn't contain a link between league revenue and player salaries — the cost certainty that Bettman, who prefers a salary cap over a luxury tax, wants for the 30 clubs.

"What people have to stop back and look at it is not the labels, like 'Is it a cap?' 'Is it cost certainty?' 'Is there linkage?' " NHLPA senior director Ted Sackin told The Associated Press on Friday. "I have to believe they went into these collective bargaining negotiations with the desire of significantly reducing their labor costs and doing it in a meaningful way."

"I think this proposal clearly does that." The 86-day lockout is threatening to wipe out the season. Through Friday, 386 contracts and the 2005 All-Star Game were lost.

The union says it will never accept a direct connection between revenue and player costs, so if Bettman holds firm the season will likely be lost.

That decision could come as early as Tuesday in Toronto when the sides meet for the second time in six days after not negotiating for three months. Bettman says the league will have reviewed the 236-page

proposal by then and will make a counteroffer.

"If they just come back and say 'Thank you for the rollback. Now we just want to put it in a cap system,' I know what the response of the players is going to be, and that would be most unfortunate," Sackin said.

The proposed luxury tax would penalize teams 20 cents for each dollar spent between \$45 million and \$50 million. The penalty would increase to 25 percent the second year and 30 percent in the third.

Teams spending between \$50 million and \$60 million would be taxed 50 cents on the dollar the first year, 55 cents the second year and 60 cents the third. Those with payrolls above that would have to pay 60

cents for every dollar the first year, 65 cents the second, and 70 cents the third year on each dollar over the threshold.

There would have been 13 teams that would have had to pay a tax if it was in effect last season. But with the rollbacks and about 200 unsigned players, only Philadelphia, Toronto and New Jersey would currently be subject to a tax on adjusted payrolls.

"We don't know how much money will be raised by the tax because it may be none because teams may decide to just stay under," Sackin said.

Bettman noted that one aspect — presumably the rollback — was significant.

The rollback was increased from the 5 percent offer three months ago. The play-

ers' association figures that will provide a savings of \$270 million the first year and \$528 million over three years.

That element is a recognition by the union of our economic condition, but it is a one-time element," Bettman said. "The rollback is an essential ingredient in implementing any new system and getting our economics back to a level that we can afford."

He isn't sure the rollback is a solution that will address the overall problems the league faces — mainly certain teams that have the means to spend lots of money on players while others don't.

"We have said consistently that the focus must be on the overall systemic issues and the long-term needs and health of our game," he said.

And he still doesn't believe a luxury tax is a system that will work for the NHL. But owners might be lured to take the deal that will provide instant savings with the salary cutbacks.

"I didn't find it encouraging that they tried to reference this as a one-time event with no systemic change," Sackin said. "When you make rollbacks of this magnitude, you are not only affecting only this year's contracts but contracts that are out two, three, four years."

Bettman has said the total package will save teams over \$1 billion.

Bettman has said that clubs lost more than \$1.8 billion over 10 years. Owners say teams lost \$273 million in 2002-03 and \$224 million last season.

An economic study commissioned by the NHL found that players get 75 percent of league revenues. The union has challenged many of the NHL's financial findings.

"They made a serious proposal, which I would suggest was the first one in this process," Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, said. "Certainly they showed a recognition of the economic problems that the game is facing and certainly we're appreciative of that."

## Key points in the NHL players' proposal

**Salary rollbacks:** Immediately cuts 24 percent off all existing contracts. NHLPA says that will save teams \$270 million in the first year and \$528 million over three years. The previous offer of Sept. 9 offered a 5 percent rollback.

**Salary restraints:** Would restrict rookie contracts to \$850,000 a year for three years, down from last season's \$1.2 million level.

There would also be reductions in qualifying offers to restricted free agents, and would give coaches the chance to elect arbitration in a system similar to one used in baseball.

The union estimates clubs will save \$400 million over the next six years and reduce the aggregate qualifying offers due to restricted free agents by \$285 million over three years.

**Luxury tax:** Would penalize teams 20

cents for each dollar spent between \$45 million and \$50 million. The penalty would increase to 25 percent the second year and 30 percent in the third.

Teams spending between \$50 million and \$60 million would be taxed 50 cents on the dollar the first year, 55 cents the second year and 60 cents the third. Those with payrolls above that would have to pay 60 cents for every dollar the first year, 65 cents the second, and 70 cents the third year on each dollar over the threshold.

Includes a revenue-sharing plan to bring the bottom 15 teams within 30 percent of the revenues of the top 15 teams.

**Joint player-club committees:** Committees would be designed to ensure improvements in the game, its marketing and its revenue.

The players proposed to play in the 2006 and 2010 Winter Olympics.

The Associated Press

# Wells switches sides, joins Red Sox

## Former Yankee signs two-year deal; Ortiz, Finley, Hidalgo find homes

By RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — David Wells is switching sides in the Yankees-Red Sox rivalry.

The loud lefty known for his unabashed love of Yankees history agreed Saturday to a \$16 million, two-year contract with Boston.

While there was no announcement, the agreement was confirmed by a Red Sox official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Wells gets a \$3 million signing bonus and a salary of \$2.5 million a year. In addition, he would earn \$200,000 per start from 11-20 and \$300,000 per start from 21-30.

His decision to go to Boston was a stunning turnaround for the 41-year-old pitcher, who spent four years with New York over last season, then went 12-8 with a 3.73 ERA last season for his hometown San Diego Padres.

Boston, coming off its first World Series title since 1918, also hopes to re-sign Pedro Martinez and Jason Varitek.

"I'm sure before all the players are off the board, there will be players for whom the title is right for the Boston Red Sox," Boston GM Theo Epstein said.

At the winter meetings opened Friday, Russ Ortiz, Steve Finley and Richard Hidalgo found new teams, though there were no trades.

Arizona set the free-agent pace for the second straight day, agreeing to a \$33 million, four-year contract with Ortiz in an effort to complement Randy Johnson in its starting rotation.

Finley, who started last season with the Diamondbacks and finished it with the Dodgers, moved down Interstate 5, agreeing to a \$14 million, two-year contract with the Anaheim Angels.

Texas agreed to a \$5 million, one-year deal with right fielder Richard Hidalgo, who split last season between Houston and the New York Mets. And the Florida Marlins reached preliminary agreements with relievers Antonio Alfonseca and Todd Jones.

As for the biggest names, agents appeared to be holding back, waiting for the market to rise even higher.

"When you look at last year's attendance growth, all those things put more money in the marketplace," Mets General Manager Omar Minaya said.

Carlos Beltran, Adrian Beltré, Varitek and



David Wells on Saturday agreed to a two-year contract with the Boston Red Sox that was worth \$18 million with performance bonuses.

Derek Lowe are represented by Scott Boras, whose clients have not reached deals until later in the offseason in recent years.

Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman expected to talk with Boras and with other top agents during the weekend, including Scott Shapiro, who represents Carl Pavano. Cashman also said Yankees pitching coach Mel Stottlemyre and staff ace Mike Mussina were to have called Pavano in the past week.

"He just needs some time to see where his heart is," Shapiro said.

Anaheim, Baltimore, Boston, Detroit and Seattle also are competing for Pavano, who pretty much has ruled out returning to the Marlins.

"At this point in time, I'd say it's very slim," Shapiro said.

"Ultimately, I don't know if they have the financial resources to compete as the market has matured to a certain level."

New York is close to an agreement with Jaret Wright on a \$21 million, three-year deal, and Cashman would like to get at least one other starting pitcher this weekend. The Yankees also have been talking with Eric Milton.

Sammy Sosa, Mike Piazza, Barry Zito, Tim Lincecum and Shawn Green have all been mentioned in trade talk, but it appears Johnson



Ortiz

Finley

and Kevin Brown won't be going anywhere soon.

The Diamondbacks said Friday that while Johnson had asked them to explore trading him to a contender, they expect the 41-year-old left-hander will remain in Arizona. The Yankees pulled out of talks last week, saying Arizona's asking price was too high, and it's not clear whether the Big Unit would waive his no-trade clause to go anywhere else.

New Arizona chief executive officer Jeff Moen said the talks were over and would not resume unless "they choose to re-engage."

Cashman, in turn, said it was up to the Diamondbacks to call him.

Arizona, responsible for large amounts of deferred payments in past contracts and coming off an 111-loss season, was thought to be on a tight budget. But the Diamondbacks agreed Thursday to a \$45 million, four-year deal with third baseman Troy Glaus, the 2002 World Series MVP with Anaheim. Then came the deal for Ortiz, a right-hander who went 15-9 with a 4.13 ERA for Atlanta but won just twice in his last 10 regular-season starts.

While the Diamondbacks tied for the 10th-most losses in major league history last season, Ortiz expects a quick turnaround.

"Winning's important. I wanted to be a part of what they're trying to accomplish," Ortiz said.

By adding the 39-year-old Finley, the Angels can move Garret Anderson to left field, where he played in 2002.

"Hey, I'm still in Los Angeles, right? Just wearing a different color," Finley said.

Finley, who turned down a \$17 million, three-year offer from the Giants, was a key factor as the Dodgers advanced to the playoffs for the first time since 1996. He hit .263 with 13 homers and 46 RBIs in 58 games after the July 31 trade, finishing at .271 overall with 36 homers and 94 RBIs.

"Once we took a look at it, we said, 'This is a natural,'" Angels General Manager Bill Stoneham said.

## Stadium chief tells Marlins to find new home by 2010

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The Florida Marlins will not be allowed to play in their stadium after the 2010 season, the latest factor in the team's prolonged struggle to get a new ballpark.

Pro Player Stadium President Bruce Schulze said 2010 is the last of a series of one-year lease options for the Marlins, who share the complex with the Miami Dolphins. He said dropping the Marlins would let the stadium pursue such events as cricket and soccer.

The stadium in northern Miami-Dade County belongs to Dolphins owner and Marlins founding owner H. Wayne Huizenga.

"The owner is free to do what he chooses," Marlins President David Samson said Friday. "What this does is make it very clear the need for the Marlins to have a new place to play is no longer just about economics. It's about survival."

Commissioner Bud Selig said he hoped "logic will get a stadium" and the Marlins will get a stadium.

The Marlins are deadlocked with local officials over plans to build a 38,000-seat, \$420-million retractable roof stadium near the Orange Bowl. On Wednesday, team officials met with Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman about a possible move.

The Las Vegas trip angered Miami Mayor Manny Diaz and City Manager Joe Arriola, who accused the team of negotiating in bad faith. However, both said the city's offer to the team stood, and county officials were optimistic about a deal.

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## U.S. sprinter Collins suspended eight years

The Associated Press

DENVER — Sprinter Michelle Collins was suspended for eight years for a doping violation linked to the BALCO scandal and will forfeit results that include 2003 indoor world and U.S. titles in the 100 meters.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency said Friday that a three-member panel of the American Arbitration Association concluded Collins, 33, used various performance-enhancing substances that allegedly were provided by the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

Though Collins never tested positive for banned substances, the appeals panel concluded she used the drugs for several years.

"She engaged in a pattern of doping involving multiple drugs over a substantial period of time,

### Sports briefs

during which she engaged and succeeded in many competitions," the ruling said. "The steroids she took, such as THG, and the complex and coordinated timing of her doping were designed, even more than the usual doping offenses, not to be detected."

USADA based its case on patterns observed from blood and urine tests Collins had in recent years, along with documents seized from BALCO by federal prosecutors and statements made by BALCO officials.

Among the documents reviewed in the arbitration were e-mails Collins sent to BALCO owner Victor Conte, including one in which she asked whether

she could use a testosterone gel with a cream she already had.

The arbitrators' ruling said Collins did not contest the authenticity of the messages, but her attorney argued in the appeal that there was no evidence to prove she had sent them.

### Woods, Montgomerie take early lead in Target Challenge

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Tiger Woods and Colin Montgomerie established themselves as the top runners, each shooting a Sunday 66 at the Target World Challenge on Friday.

Montgomerie birdied five of his first seven holes, then had to scramble for a bogey on the 18th hole to make a share of the lead at Sherwood Country Club. Woods made five birdies in a six-hole stretch in the middle of

his round, disappointed in making only one birdie on the par 55. They were at 9-under 133 and were two shots ahead of Jim Furyk (66) and Jay Haas (66).

### UC Santa Barbara, Indiana to vie for Men's College Cup

CARSON, Calif. — Drew McAtty scored two goals to lead UC Santa Barbara to a 5-0 rout of Duke in the semifinals of the NCAA men's college cup on Friday night.

Indiana won the other semifinal when John Michael Hayden scored with 48 seconds left in second overtime to give the second-seeded Hoosiers a 3-2 victory over third-seeded Maryland.

The ninth-seeded Gauchos (21-10) and Indiana (21-1) will meet for the NCAA championship Sunday at the Home Depot Center.



Pittsburgh's Jerome Bettis, above, (12,960 rushing yards) and the Jets' Curtis Martin (12,974) are close to achieving another milestone.

## Steelers, Jets meet in AFC showdown

BY DAVE GOLDBERG  
The Associated Press

The Pittsburgh Steelers barely escaped a loss in Jacksonville last week, thanks to Ben Roethlisberger's first late game-winning drive. With the AFC North just about wrapped up, they take on the New York Jets on Sunday, hoping to continue their run toward home-field advantage.

The Steelers have won 10 in a row, and the Jets have won three straight after a midseason slide. It's unlikely New York can catch New England in the AFC East, but the Jets lead the wild-card race by two games and have Chad Pennington back at quarterback.

Pittsburgh, which can clinch its division with a win, is favored by 6 points. That seems like a lot, especially for a team that tends to play things close, but the spread jumped when the Jets confirmed that defensive end John Abraham, who is having a career year, is out with a knee injury.

There might actually be more at stake for Pittsburgh than New York in this one.

The Steelers handed the Patriots their only loss, giving them the edge for home-field advantage in the playoffs if they win out.

The Jets have their wild-card lead, and the teams behind them are stumbling a bit, so a defeat wouldn't kill them.

Pittsburgh seems to have a touch of magic. In Jacksonville, the Steelers scored two touchdowns in the first 13 minutes. Then they were held scoreless for the Jaguars took the lead with just under 2 minutes left.

So Roethlisberger simply completed three consecutive passes to get Pittsburgh in scoring position, and Jeff Reed kicked a 36-yard field goal.

Most important, the Jets are 0-9 in Pennsylvania. Make that 0-10, barely.

**STEELERS, 17-16.**  
**Cincinnati (plus 11)** at New England: The Bengals' comeback win in Baltimore last week was the most impressive in more than a decade. But the Patriots have been on a rampage since losing in Pittsburgh, and Corey Dillon should be up for an ex-mat.

**PATRIOTS, 31-17.**  
**Indianapolis (minus 10½)** at

## NFL picks

**Houston:** Peyton Manning had five TD passes in a 49-14 win over the Texans in Indy and would break Dan Marino's season record of 48 if he does it again. ... **COLTS, 34-26.**

**St. Louis (plus 6½)** at Carolina: Chris Chandler starts in place of the injured Marc Bulger for St. Louis, which has a chance to win the NFC West with a losing record. ... **PANTHERS, 24-17.**

**New Orleans (plus 7)** at Dallas: Julius Jones has revived Dallas' offense. ... **COWBOYS 31-20.**

**Philadelphia (minus 9)** at Washington: Is there any reason to think the Eagles won't finish 15-1? ... **EAGLES, 20-2.**

**Oakland (plus 7½)** at Atlanta: Atlanta wraps up the NFC South. ... **FALCONS, 24-20.**

**Tampa Bay (plus 5½)** at San Diego: Bucs are coming on; San Diego might be down after big win. ... **BUCS, 22-20.**

**Seattle (plus 6½)** at Minnesota: Two feeble NFC contenders. ... **VIKINGS, 37-30.**

**New York Giants (plus 10)** at Baltimore: These Giants look like the team that lost its first eight last season. ... **RAVENS, 24-6.**

**Kansas City (off)** at Tennessee (Monday night): This kind of matchup is the reason the league will be more flexible with prime-time games in the future. ... **CHIEFS, 34-27.**

**Chicago (plus 7)** at Jacksonville: The Jaguars' six wins are a total of 23 points. ... **JAGUARS, 17-12.**

**Cleveland (plus 11½)** at Buffalo: Who knows what would have happened if the Bills hadn't stumbled early. ... **BILLS, 27-10.**

**Miami (plus 11½)** at Denver: Jake Plummer's erratic ways won't matter here. ... **BRONCOS, 24-10.**

**Detroit (plus 9½)** at Green Bay: An indoor team at Lambeau in December? ... **PACKERS, 32-9.**

**San Francisco (plus 6½)** at Arizona: Even with Denny Green's QB shuffle. ... **CARDS, 24-15.**

**Last week:** 7-8-1 (spread), 9-7 (straight up).

**Season:** 92-97-4 (spread), 125-67 (straight up).

# Chiefs running back Holmes says he'll be back next season

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Despite a knee injury that ended his season, Priest Holmes says he is "definitely 100 percent" planning to be back for 2005.

"In terms of next year, I'm excited because of the fact that it gives me an opportunity to heal up and start preparing for the 2005 season," Kansas City's star running back said Friday, a day after the Chiefs put him on injured reserve.

"There are a lot of things we need to do. We left a lot of things on the table this year," Holmes said. "We're still playing, we're still in it in terms of winning some games and making sure we end the season the right way. But the 2005 season is going to be exciting because we know that there's a valuable lesson that we learned this year — and that is that when you start having guys go down, it makes it really difficult to win ball games."

Holmes, 31, was leading the NFL in rushing and scoring when he strained ligaments in his right knee at Tampa Bay on Nov. 7.

At first he thought he would be able to work this year. But healing was slow, and since the Chiefs (4-8) are out of the playoff hunt, it was decided to shut him down for the rest of the season.

"The injury just gave me an opportunity to rest up and to get the body 100 percent," he said.

This is the third time injury has cut a season short for Holmes, who set an NFL record in 2003 with 27 touchdowns.

A knee injury his senior year in college forced him to come into the NFL as an undrafted free agent. He underwent hip surgery

## NFL Briefs

following the 2002 season and spoke of retirement after his big year in 2003.

But Friday, Holmes said his love for the game had not changed.

"The football has never left me. It never will, and I don't think there's any way that it could," he said. "It's a gift and something that I can't even control. I'd have to say that it's not necessarily something you have to train for ... it's just a God-given talent."

## Redskins' Portis, Taylor fined for wearing red socks

ASHBURN, Va. — That was an expensive pair of red socks Clinton Portis wore last week. They're costing him \$5,000.

The NFL fined the Washington Redskins running back Friday for violating the league's uniform rules. Portis wore red socks instead of the team's usual white in last Sunday's 31-7 victory over the New York Giants.

Portis had one of his best games in the different attire, running for 148 yards on 31 carries. After the game, he predicted he would be fined, but he said he had to make the change because, in his words, "If you're not looking sweet, you really can't play too sweet."

Rookie safety Sean Taylor, Portis' good friend and fellow ex-Miami Hurricane star, also wore red socks and also was fined \$5,000. Taylor was fined an additional \$7,500 for unnecessary roughness during the roughing the passer penalty in the fourth quarter.

## NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by a list of players who are questionable for Monday night's game against Kansas City.

## Bills CB Vincent could play against Browns

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Bills cornerback Troy Vincent could play for the first time in more than two months Sunday against Cleveland.

Vincent tore cartilage in his right knee in the third game of the season. He had surgery and missed nine games.

He practiced this week, and coach Mike Mularkey sounded optimistic about the possibility of him playing against the Browns.

"He's had a really good week of work," Mularkey said Friday after practice.

If Vincent is activated, he more than likely wouldn't start.

Backup Terrence McGee has filled in well, making interceptions the last two games. Overall, McGee has three interceptions and two sacks, and has returned a team-record three kickoffs for touchdowns this season.

Vincent, a major free agent off season, had missed just 16 of a possible 192 games in his career before this season.

Right tackle Mike Williams practiced Friday in a limited capacity, but he said this week after a knee injury last week against Miami. Mularkey said it will be a game-time decision whether Williams starts Sunday. Marcus Price would replace Williams if he is unable to play.

# Middleman: From tiny Lovington, N.M., Urlacher hits the big time in Chicago

## MIDDLEMAN, FROM BACK PAGE

bers that certainly would be higher if he hadn't been forced out of it.

"It's what I do, you know. I love to play, everyone knows that, I think I say it every week," Urlacher said.

"You know it's my job. I like being out there with my teammates, I love practicing. I love being in the locker room. It's just, football is fun. That's really all I can say about it. I want to get back out there as fast as I could."

In June 2003, Urlacher signed a nine-year, \$58.5 million contract and there have been several commercial endorsements, making him one of the city's most recognizable personalities.

He grew up in the small New Mexico town of Lovington, population 9,000, and now he's a fixture in a metropolitan area of 8 million.

"I just know I've never seen an athlete like him," Bears coach LVine Smith said. "I've never seen a superstar like him. He's a perfect teammate to the guys in the locker room. He will let you coach him." A lot of times of the superstars have answers and they don't let you coach them. But he's definitely not that way."

Urlacher's instincts are certainly responsible for much of his success. He seems to have a feel for the ball, has the speed and strength to chase down ball carriers, knock down quarterbacks or break up passes.

But he also studies more than most people know, says defensive coordinator Ron Rivera, a linebacker on the Bears' only Super Bowl winner.

"I think people don't realize that Brian comes in on Mondays and off days and is watching

films," Rivera said. "He spends time down here by himself. I don't think people really understand or know that he does those things, but as far as Brian is concerned, that's fine with him."

Urlacher's concern this week is Jacksonville's Fred Taylor and Byron Leftwich, finding a way to disrupt the Jaguars' offense as well as with a strong final month.

Urlacher sometimes sits out practice — he did on Thursday this week — for precautionary measures and admitted he was very tired last week after having missed the previous two games. But that won't keep him from being one of the most active players on the field Sunday.

"Our season is not over yet and I want to play as much as I can," he said. "So it comes down to just loving to play and being out there with my teammates."



# Rams, Panthers set for rematch

## Plenty at risk for last year's NFC title foes

BY JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press



Game time is Central European.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The most recent game between Carolina and St. Louis lasted more than four hours, through all of regulation and into a second overtime, finally ending on a dramatic long touchdown that sent the Panthers to the NFC championship game.

So much has changed since that January thriller — the key players, the team records, the stakes — that Sunday's meeting can hardly be considered a rematch.

Still, there's plenty on the line for two football teams battling to get into the playoffs.

The Panthers (5-7) are on a four-game winning streak and probably need to win the Rams (6-6) to stay in contention for a wild-card berth.

"This is our playoff game," said Carolina cornerback Ricky Manning Jr.

St. Louis is a little better off.

Tied with Seattle for first place in the NFC West, the Rams hold the tiebreaker over the Seahawks, and a loss to Carolina wouldn't cripple their shot at getting into the postseason.

But there is a bit of pride on the line, as well as a desire to ruin Carolina's season as payback for the Panthers' 29-23 victory in the divisional playoff game.

"They did knock us out of the playoffs last year and they moved on — for me to sit here and say there isn't anything there, I would be lying," said Rams receiver Torrey Holt. "There is some incentive there that they came in and defeated us on our home turf and knocked us out ... we haven't forgotten."

Few players in either locker room have forgotten many details of that Jan. 10 marathon.

The Panthers blew an 11-point lead in the final 2:39 of regulation as St. Louis rallied to tie the game on a touchdown run by Marshall Faulk, a two-point conversion, an onside kick and a 33-yard field goal by Jeff Wilkins.

Carolina nearly won it on the first possession of overtime when John Kasay made a 40-yard field goal. But the Panthers were called for delay of game, the offense came back for two runs and Kasay was wide right for 45 yards.

Wilkins missed a 53-yarder for the Rams, who, after forcing Carolina to punt, were moving the ball

when Manning wrestled a pass away from Holt for an interception at the Carolina 38.

At the start of the second overtime, the Panthers were facing third-and-14 from their 31-yard line when Jake Delhomme hit Steve Smith on a slant pattern. St. Louis safety Jason Sehorn slipped as he tried to defend Smith, and the receiver took off for a 69-yard touchdown that sent Carolina on to Philadelphia and ended the Rams' season — as well as their 14-game home winning streak.

"I didn't think that game was ever going to end," Carolina center Jeff Mitchell said. "It was the longest game. It was crazy. It was like trading punches."

"And then when it was over, you were just stunned. You were like the fans who were just sitting there, staring. You were like, 'Is it finally over?'"

Half of the 22 starters who lined up for Carolina that day are gone, and the Rams will play without injured quarterback Marc Bulger and six others.

Carolina's changes are mostly due to injuries. Smith, who caught the winning touchdown, broke his leg in the season opener. Running backs Stephen Davis and DeShaun Foster are also out, and the two combined for 181 yards rushing against the Rams.

"They are a little different," Holt said. "But as far as their fight, their intensity and the way they prepare, there is no difference."

The biggest difference for the Rams is that 39-year-old quarterback Chris Chandler will be making his first start in over a year.

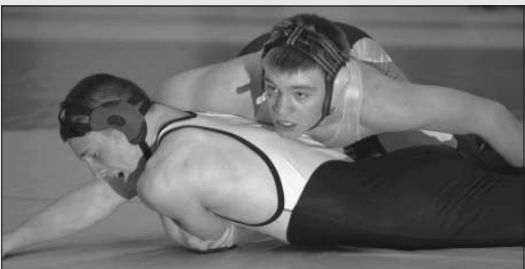
Bulger was injured in the first quarter against San Francisco last week. Chandler relieved, went 18-for-27 for 216 yards and threw his first touchdown pass in more than a year in leading St. Louis to a 16-6 victory.

"I feel good. I am having a ton of fun, and I don't lack at the (age) number," Chandler said. "It's just a matter of if I can still go out and have fun and enjoy the game. I feel like I can still go out and do my job."

Also, Faulk could sit out with a bruised knee, and Steven Jackson, his understudy, has a sprained right knee.

Jackson had 119 yards on 26 carries against the 49ers.

## Holding out for the pin

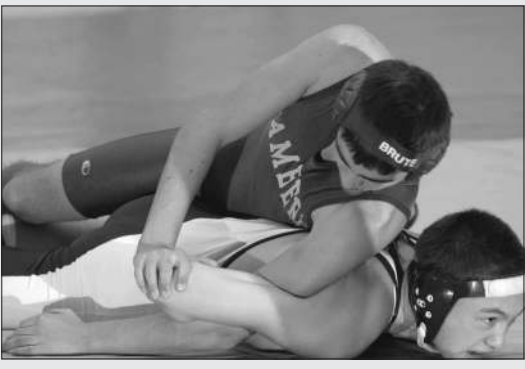
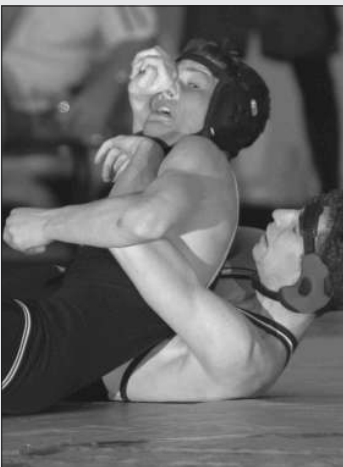


Above: Wiesbaden's Paul Hurley, top, tries to flip Bitburg's Lance Hoffman during their 171-pound wrestling match in Wiesbaden, Germany, on Saturday. Hurley pinned Hoffman at 2:41 to win the match. Four teams competed in the meet.

Left: Hanau's Lucas Heisse, top, tries to break free from Bitburg's Simon Arnould during their 135-pound match. Heisse pinned Arnould at 2:34 to win.

Below: Bamberg's Bryant Garcia, top, has an arm hold on Bitburg's Scott Meacham during their 125-pound match. Meacham pinned Garcia at 2:17 for the victory.

RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes





# Heidelberg win streak snapped at 20 games

Stars and Stripes

Five-time defending European Division I champion Heidelberg had won 20 straight games going into the weekend, but has a string of another kind going after consecutive road losses on Friday and Saturday.

At Ansbach, All-Europe senior Russell Bailey had 12 points and 12 rebounds Friday night as the

## Boys basketball

Cougars ended Heidelberg's streak with a 37-31 victory. Brandon Bachtel added 10 points and Tyler Sherman grabbed eight rebounds as the Cougars overcame a 14-2 first-quarter deficit against the Lions, whose last previous loss was on Feb. 14, 2003.

Heidelberg's woes continued Saturday in a 40-35 defeat at Ramstein. The Royals lost by four to Heidelberg in last season's Division I title game.

Allen Weaver scored 17 points and Brennon Relisford 10 as Ramstein evened its Division I record at 1-1 going into the winter break.

The Royals are scheduled to host unbeaten Würzburg, which beat Ramstein 32-31 earlier this

season, when play resumes Jan. 7.

Heidelberg (2-2, 0-1) got 11 points from T.C. Blanks in the loss at Ramstein. The Lions will resume their season at Bamberg of Division III on Jan. 8 before hosting International School of Brussels in a Division I matchup Jan. 14-15.

In other games of note Friday and Saturday:

**K-town stays perfect:** Quintin Strawder and Clinton Robinson III led Kaiserslautern to a 61-30 victory over Giessen in a home game that included a 22-6 opening-quarter burst by the Red Raiders.

Strawder scored 14 points and Robinson 12 for Kaiserslautern (3-0). The Red Raiders are scheduled to open their Division I campaign after the break, at home Jan. 8 against Ramstein.

Chris Feldman led winless Giessen with 11 points. The Griffins are off until they host another Division I foe, Wiesbaden, on Jan. 8.

**Bobcats claim road sweep:** Division III-North power London Central defeated Baumholder 61-49 on Friday and 56-30 on Saturday on the Bucs' home court to even their overall record at 2-2.

Baumholder had no answer for David Marbury, who had 16 points, 13 rebounds, five assists and five steals on Friday, and 15 points and 14 rebounds on Saturday. Anthony Thomas burned Baumholder (1-3) for 20 points on Friday.

London Central next hosts The American School in London on Wednesday before breaking for the holidays. The Bobcats then open their III-North season by hosting Alconbury on Jan. 21-22.

Baumholder resumes its season when it hosts Hohenfels in a III-South match-up Jan. 14-15.

**Hanau rolls:** Visiting Hanau defeated Black Forest Academy 51-45 on Friday and 53-30 on Saturday to open the Division II season 2-0.

Hanau was led in scoring both days by Jeremy Marshall. He scored 18 points on Friday and 11 on Saturday. Returning All-Europe post player Marcus Fontanez backed Marshall with 12 points and 10 rebounds on Friday, and eight points and six rebounds on Saturday.

Hanau (2-1) breaks until a Jan. 8 game at Würzburg of Division I. BFA (2-2, 0-2) is idle until it visits Patch on Jan. 14-15.

**Vilseck victimizes Hohenfels again:** Visiting Vilseck pulled away from a 35-34 lead at the end of three quarters to a 51-44 victory, its second over the Tigers this season.

Deerrick Jones led the way with 10 points and 15 rebounds for Vilseck (2-0), which outgunned Hohenfels 55-26 to open the season. Vilseck resumes its season Jan. 14 at Mannheim in a Division II contest, while the next game for Hohenfels (0-3) is at Mannheim on Jan. 7.

**Bison grab Division II opener:** Desmond Brown scored 26 points Friday to lead visiting Mannheim to a 72-60 victory over Patch in the Division II opener for both teams.

Reggie Jenkins scored 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for Mannheim, which got 16 points and 10 rebounds from Earl Lee. Neal Griffin led Patch with 28 points and Stephen Fey came up with 16 rebounds for the Panthers, who defeated Ansbach 62-56 in a late game Saturday.



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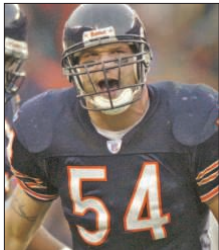
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## SPORTS



Back-to-back losses end  
20-game winning streak  
for Heidelberg boys, Page 43



Four-time Pro Bowler Brian Urlacher, above, said, "I like being out there with my teammates, I love practicing, I love being in the locker room. It's just, football is fun."

## Urlacher draws comparisons with Butkus, Singletary

BY RICK GANO

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — During the summer before he went away to college at New Mexico, Brian Urlacher worked pipeline construction — 12-hour shifts in 100-degree heat for \$7 an hour.

Those long days of toil developed a toughness that hasn't wavered, even years later when Urlacher plays for millions as the middle linebacker of the Chicago Bears.

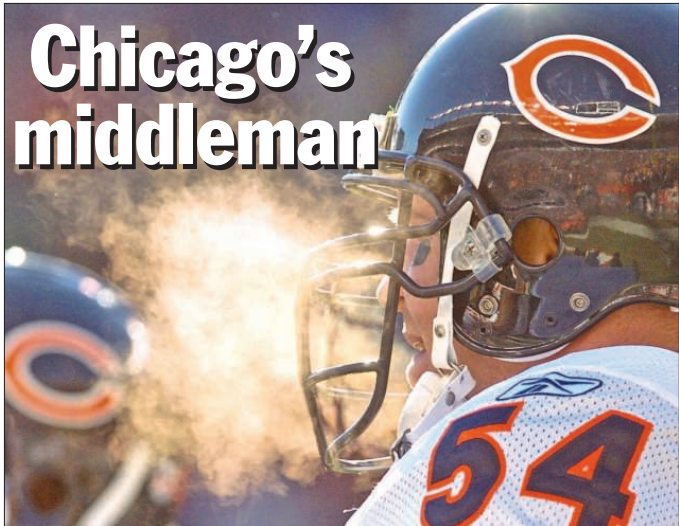
When his left calf swelled up like two grapefruits after a game Nov. 14, his foot went numb in the middle of the night and he needed surgery at 5 a.m. to relieve pressure from internal bleeding, doctors told him he'd be out 4-6 weeks.

Less than three weeks later, Urlacher was back on the field, playing his best game of the season: running side to side with a fury; intercepting a pass inside the 5-yard line; breaking up another pass; and making a sack among his 11 tackles to push the Bears to victory over the Minnesota Vikings last Sunday.

"It just healed better than they thought it could, I guess. I really don't know how to explain it," Urlacher said.

There is no need to explain just how much better the Bears are with Urlacher than without him. It's so obvious.

# Chicago's middleman



Bears middle linebacker Brian Urlacher (54) has been selected to the Pro Bowl in each of his first four seasons. He's missed only four games in his NFL career — all Chicago losses and all of them this season. The Bears are 5-3 this season with him in the lineup.

Chicago is 5-3 when he's on the field, calling the defensive signals and inspiring his teammates to measure up. When he's been out this season — also missing two games with a hamstring injury that cost him the entire preseason — they're 0-4.

"When we are out on the field and it's a pressure situation, he will come out and

start joking around with you and let us know, 'Hey, it's a game and let's just do what we do,'" second-year linebacker Lance Briggs said.

"When he's not there, you feel like you have to be so much more sound. And when he's there, you have a guy who is going to make plays."



Linebacker Brian Urlacher (left), taking down Vikings QB Daunte Culpepper last Sunday, has 26½ sacks in 72 NFL games.

KRT

As a college safety and linebacker with speed and offensive skills, Urlacher was taken by the Bears in the first round of the 2000 draft out of New Mexico, one of the few colleges to show interest in him.

And after moving to middle linebacker in the third game of his rookie season, he's become an instant hit on and off the field. He was the 2000 Defensive Rookie of the Year.

He is now the face of the Bears, being talked about with great linebackers Dick Butkus and Mike Singletary. His No. 54 jersey has been one of the NFL's top sellers. He's made the Pro Bowl in each of his four seasons, a span in which he never missed a game because of injury.

That changed this year when he hurt his hamstring in the first practice of training camp, meaning he's spent a lot of the season rounding into shape while battling two injuries.

Urlacher has five sacks and one interception. He's also forced two fumbles, num-

SEE MIDDLEMAN ON PAGE 40

Red Sox  
add former  
Yankee  
Wells for  
two years,  
\$8 million

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Enjoying magical seasons,  
Jets, Steelers cross paths  
in AFC showdown

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USC lawmaker  
Bush is an  
uncommon  
Heisman finalist

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